

Weather cannot take the blame
By David Miller
Another year gone by, another tale of Britain's weather...
DAVID MILLER
standard: what we are looking for is a...
Time to collect their cards
Patricia's...
Monday
Watchers in the sky
Who will win the contract for Britain's early warning system?
Portfolio
£24,000 to be won
There is £24,000 - double the usual total - to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition...
Prison strike
Fifty women prison officers at the Risley remand centre, Warrington, Cheshire, stopped work yesterday because of a dispute over staffing levels.
On This Day
Was Everest climbed in 1924 by George Mallory and Andrew Irvine? Noel Odell, the expedition's geologist, believes they must have reached the summit.
Too noisy
The peace and quiet of Surrey was destroyed for a retired couple when the M25 was built 200 metres from their home - but they are disquieted from receiving an insulation grant.
Oxford passes
Oxford class lists for botany and geology are published today.

BP share sale looms after water U-turn

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government is ready to fill the gap left in its finances after the shelving of water privatization, by speeding up the sale of its remaining holding in British Petroleum and thus sticking to its objective of cutting taxes before the next general election.

All or part of the 31.7 per cent it still owns in BP - valued at nearly £3 billion - could be sold at any time and before the next election if necessary, Government sources said yesterday.

At least some of the money that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, hoped to have to bring the standard rate of tax down towards 25p in the pound before the election will not now be available.

But in the wake of their climbdown over the sale of the 10 water authorities in England and Wales, ministers were voicing total confidence yesterday in their ability to meet their target of £4.75 billion from the sale of assets in each of the next three years.

They denied that their plans for pre-election tax cuts had been damaged.

It was said that a combination of the proceeds from the sale of British Airways, the British Airports Authority, Rolls Royce and the remaining holdings in BP and British Telecom were more than sufficient to meet the targets.

However, the Treasury confirmed that the remaining 49 per cent holding in BP - current market value £7 billion - cannot be sold until April 1988, under the original sale prospectus.



Mr Lawson: denied efforts for privatization had cooled.

Last night Mr Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and the minister in charge of privatization, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to privatization. He said that the candidates already earmarked for sale during the present Parliament and the Government's residual shareholdings in privatized companies were ample to meet the asset sales target.

most likely the £1 billion expected from the flotation of the Thames authority - would have been available in 1987-88.

The Government has already sold two tranches of its holding in BP, realizing £276 million in 1979-80 and £543 million in 1983-84.

The Government mounted a concerted exercise to dampen election speculation yesterday after the sudden shift of policy on water, seen as a further sign of its unwillingness to take on unpopular measures before the next poll.

Mr John Biffen, the Commons leader, suggested in a BBC Radio interview that the Queen's Speech for the next session of Parliament in the autumn would contain as many as 30 Bills. He indicated that there would be a measure on banking, which will be aimed at tightening up banking supervision in the wake of the Johnson Matthey case.

He denied that the postponement of the water Bill, following that of the British Airways and Royal Ordnance factory flotations, meant a lack of enthusiasm for further privatization.

There were specific technical problems over each, and the water measure had already become so complex that there had been no likelihood of presenting it early enough in the next session to get it through on time.

Mr Ridley yesterday reaffirmed that the water industry would eventually be privatized.

Leading article, page 7



The Prince of Wales chatting to other patrons of the Windsor Castle public house, Deptford, over a drink yesterday.

Prince looks in at the local

The Prince of Wales dropped in for a drink at The Windsor Castle public house in Deptford, south London, yesterday.

He surprised his party by going on an impromptu walkabout in the area's busy high street during a visit to launch the Deptford Enterprise Agency.

There were shouts of "Good Old Charles" as he pushed aside a crash barrier and walked into the saloon bar of the public house at the invitation of Mr Raymond Joiner, the landlord.

The Prince glanced up at the painted sign, showing his family home, and said: "That's very appropriate."

Mr Joiner, who runs the pub with his wife, Lynn, said: "Prince Charles asked for a sweet cider and I bought him one." She added: "I have never seen my pub so full."

The Prince met Mr Dave Brown, who lives at a hotel for homeless men near by, in the public bar, and discovered a mutual interest in the radio programme *The Goons*.

Mr Brown said afterwards: "I know Prince Charles can initiate them all but he said he would not do them today."

Mr Chris Ingram, who is unemployed, also spoke to the Prince and said: "I think a lot of the Queen Mother and I asked him how she was."

The Prince also looked in on the boutique run by Mr Stanford Brown and his wife, Mr Brown, a West Indian, said: "I took him along because I think it is important that he should see what we are capable of."

The Prince was told at the agency that its special role is to help to develop business among the ethnic minorities. Nearly 27 per cent of men in Deptford are thought to be unemployed.

The Prince said that the whole spirit and survival of a generation depended on using flexibility and imagination.

Three young paraplegics who raised £300,000 by pushing their wheelchairs from John O'Groats to Land's End took morning tea with the Princess of Wales at Kensington Palace yesterday.

Andy Haynes, aged 21, Danny Aykroyd, aged 23, Simon Barnes, aged 22, and Mr Barnes's dog Dylan, finished their journey, part of an effort to raise funds towards finding a cure for spinal cord injury, earlier this week.

Bomb attack in white Pretoria suburb injures 15

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A bomb placed between two cars exploded yesterday outside a supermarket in Silverton, a white suburb of Pretoria, injuring at least 15 people of all races, some seriously, the South African Government's Bureau for Information reported last night.

The explosion was the twelfth in South African cities since a state of emergency was declared on June 12, and the third this week. Other bombs have gone off in Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Queenstown, in the Eastern Cape.

Yesterday's blast brings the number of casualties in such incidents to three killed and 116 injured. The high number of whites among the victims seems to reflect a switch of black insurgency tactics from the more traditional kind of sabotage and killings of black "collaborators" to attacks on white civilians.

The outworn African National Congress is routinely blamed by the Government for such attacks, but there has been no rush by ANC spokesmen to claim responsibility for them.

This could mean there are differences in the ANC leadership over the wisdom of such tactics, or that it no longer has control over insurgents in the field.

In a move that seemed to reflect alarm over the bombings, the police yesterday issued appeals to residents of black townships not to allow their homes and gardens to be used as hiding-places for explosives, and said rewards would be paid for information about such caches.

In Pretoria, the Information Bureau said three more blacks had died in "unrelated incidents", one of them killed by police and the others allegedly burnt to death in black-on-black violence.

A total of 99 "unrest" deaths have been reported by the Bureau since the emergency was declared.

In Kimberley, four De Beers diamond mines were closed yesterday by a strike by the black workforce of 1,950.

It was called, partly in support of a pay claim, but mainly to protest at the detention of trade union leaders under the emergency.

Hundreds of union officials and members have been detained under the emergency regulations, which give sweeping powers to the police.

Rain a threat to women's final

By Angella Johnson

Martina Navratilova and Hana Mandlikova, Wimbledon finalists, could find themselves faced with another opponent in their Centre Court match today: the unpredictable British weather.

Weathermen say the sunny spell over most of the Wimbledon championship is on its way out and forecast cloudy skies and rain in the afternoon which could put a damper on the women's final.

The London Weather Bureau said: "There is a depression moving across the Atlantic which was expected to reach us yesterday but it was moving much slower than we first thought."

"Today's early bright start will soon be followed by light showers mid-afternoon with temperatures in the mid 70s (20C), becoming cooler in the evening."

London was one of the hottest spots yesterday with temperatures at about 77F (25C) in the mid-afternoon.

Becker in final: Boris Becker, aged 18, of West Germany, who last year was the first unseeded and youngest player to win Wimbledon, will tomorrow defend his men's singles title on the Centre Court.

In yesterday's semi-final, Becker defeated Henri Leconte, aged 23, of France, 6-2, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 in two hours 24 minutes.

Gatting's triumph: In the Third Test at Edgbaston, India are 182 for 3, with Mohinder Amarnath 59 not out. In reply to England's first innings total of 398, Mike Gatting made an undefeated 183.

Sport, pages 28-32
Forecast, page 16

PC not guilty of boy's killing

By Craig Seton

Police Constable Brian Chester, who was acquitted yesterday of the unlawful killing of John Shorthouse, aged five, walked free from Stafford Crown Court and said: "All involved in this tragedy can never be the same again."

PC Chester, aged 35, was greeted by cheers and applause from 300 people outside the court, where he said: "I am sure Mrs Shorthouse can never forgive me and I can never forget."

The officer, who shot the boy through the heart from nine inches range during a police raid on his parents' Birmingham home, had to wait two and a half hours for the jury of seven women and five men to reach its unanimous verdict.

The father of three was expressionless as the jury foreman declared "not guilty" to manslaughter. He left the dock immediately to telephone his wife.

Clearly relieved, he read out a brief statement before being whisked away by car. He said: "I am relieved that the ordeal of the trial is now over for my wife and family. I have always maintained that the death of John Shorthouse was a tragic accident and I am content that an English jury has heard all the evidence and agreed."

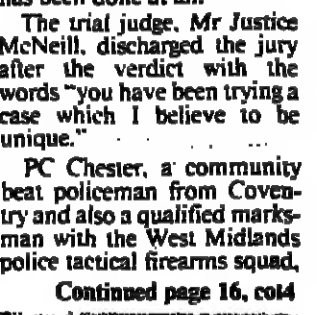
"Naturally, nothing I can do or say can repair the sorrow and loss caused to the Shorthouse family and only now am I allowed to express my feelings regarding the bereaved and I pass on to them my deepest condolences."

Mrs Jacqueline Shorthouse, aged 26, the dead boy's mother, was not in court to hear the verdict. She said to her solicitor: "I feel very upset and bitter. I do not feel that justice has been done at all."

The trial judge, Mr Justice McNeill, discharged the jury after the verdict with the words "you have been trying a case which I believe to be unique."

PC Chester, a community beat policeman from Coventry and also a qualified marksman with the West Midlands police tactical firearms squad, has been downed.

Continued page 16, col 4



PC Chester leaving court yesterday

US asks France to push for summit

From Michael Binyon, New York

President Reagan and President Francois Mitterrand, who stood side by side at the Statue of Liberty centennial celebrations, met over lunch yesterday to discuss the prospects for East-West relations in advance of the French leader's visit to Moscow on Monday.

Mr Reagan impressed on Mitterrand his eagerness to achieve progress at the Geneva arms talks and his commitment to a summit meeting this year with Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

He clearly hopes Mitterrand, during his three-day Moscow visit, will be able to prod the Soviet leader in to setting a firm date for the summit.

In recent weeks the US and Soviet leaders have written to each other about their proposed second meeting, with Mr Gorbachev saying the Soviet Union is ready for preparatory talks between the countries' foreign ministers.

After his recent conciliatory speech at Glastonbury, Mr Reagan said in an interview on Thursday that new Soviet arms control proposals "make me optimistic that we're not only going to have a summit, but we're going to have a summit where we can reach agreement on some of the goals we share."

He called Mr Gorbachev's recent letter "quite a packet - and worthwhile."

Meanwhile Mitterrand, with whom the US has stored cordial relations after the public dispute over the US raid on Libya, said here that Mr Gorbachev was the first "modern man" to lead the Soviet Union: a man with whom it was possible to negotiate an arms agreement.

At a New York luncheon on Thursday he sketched a warm portrait of the Soviet leader, whom he said he knew better than his Western counterparts. He had had 12 hours of meetings with Mr Gorbachev during the Soviet leader's visit to Paris last October. The French visit to Moscow is a return visit.

Day of pageantry, page 5

Carter storms out

From Jan Raath, Harare

Mr Jimmy Carter, the former American President, and most of the Western diplomatic community here walked out of a reception yesterday to celebrate America's 210th anniversary of independence.

The incident, the latest jar to Zimbabwe's relations with the United States, came when the Zimbabwean Ministry of Foreign Affairs used the occasion to attack American policy over South Africa.

The affair, in Meikles Hotel, began with Mr Carter singing Zimbabwe's praises.

Dr Witness Mangwende, the Foreign Minister, in a speech read on his behalf by a junior cabinet minister, indirectly linked America with South African "terrorism" and accused Britain and America of offering "placatives and apologies only" for South Africa.

Mr Carter and Mr Gibson Lanpher, the US chargé d'affaires, exchanged glances, turned their backs on the podium and walked out expressionlessly.

Mr Carter said at a scheduled press conference later that he felt "insulted."

Pik Botha invites world sanctions

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

The South African Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, has joined the ranks of those Afrikaner politicians who see merit in a siege economy, and issued what amounts to an invitation to the outside world to impose economic sanctions.

In a belligerent speech to a meeting of National Party faithful in Witbank, 70 miles north-east of Johannesburg, on Thursday night, Mr Botha declared: "The sooner sanctions come, the better... we will show the world we will not be soft."

The choice facing South Africa was clear: "Either we bow down to the world's demands or refuse to take any more of its meddling," he said. What the West wanted - the handing-over of power to a majority based on one-man, one-vote - would be "tantamount to suicide."

The country should brace itself for a long period of sanctions, he said. Measures introduced by the conservative governments now in power in South Africa's four main trading partners - the United States, Britain, France and West Germany - were hardly likely to be relaxed by "more liberal successors."

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HAMISH HAMILTON

Ilea sports chief lacks team spirit

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent

Competitive team sports should not be played during school hours, a leading physical education chief said last night.

Mrs Carol Rowbotham, chief inspector of physical education for the Inner London Education Authority, said inter-school matches should take place after 4 pm or on Saturday mornings.

"I think balance is the most important word, particularly when we are talking about the daily programme - the 9 to 4 programme in schools."

"We would be against competition during that," Mrs Rowbotham said on ITV's *The London Programme*, which was devoted to the decline of team sports such as cricket, football and rugby union in schools.

Mrs Rowbotham said she did not think that curriculum time should be spent just with the best seven, eleven or best fifteen playing another school.

However, organizations such as the Central Council of Physical Recreation lament that this policy means pupils drift away from team games which will ultimately harm national teams.

The council has become so worried at the trend that it announced on Thursday it would discuss with teachers' unions and professional organizations how to halt the decline of competitive sport in state schools.

The London Weekend Television programme focused on one school, the Dick Sheppard School in Tulse Hill, where pupils were shown playing stool-ball. Played with a soft ball, the game allows both sexes to play and is not competitive.

Mr Paul Farmer, the head teacher, said: "I think that schools that concentrate on the First XI are concentrating on an elite and the problem is rejection for the majority. Certainly our experience is that a majority of pupils being rejected is not what comprehensive schools are about. It is not what we are about."

Miss Helen Miller, a physical education teacher at the south London school, emphasized the variety of the sports programme and emphasis on participation. "I think that for many, many years the children who have had talents in areas other than games have gone unnoticed."

"We have exposed the talents of children in areas such as dance, gymnastics, trampolining, aquatic-based sport, but not necessarily speed swimming. I think the width of the programme has actually encouraged more talent to be developed."

Last December Mr Peter Lawson, secretary of the CCPR, with Mr Peter May, representing the Cricket Council, Mr Ron Tennick (Rugby Football Union), and Mr Charles Hughes (Football Association) expressed their concern to Mr. Richard Tracey, the Sports Minister.

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Elite squad to tackle gun sieges after death of boy

By Craig Seton

An elite firearms squad on permanent stand-by will be formed by West Midlands police in the aftermath of the John Shorthouse killing.

Its highly trained members could face new psychological tests designed to weed out officers who could not cope with the stress of operational firearms duties.

The force's tactical firearms squad is under scrutiny after criticism by members of the police authority of its "shocking record" of firearms accidents and the lack of psychological testing for stress.

In a report published after the Shorthouse shooting, they said that his death had exposed the weakness of the existing "part-time" marksmen system whereby an officer could be on duty at one moment, and then thrust into the highly-charged atmosphere of an armed siege the next.

They had in mind part-time marksmen such as Police Constable Brian Chester, a community beat policeman in the Willenhall area of Coventry, patrolling streets and visiting schools.

But, nine of his 16 years with the force were as a firearms officer, qualified since 1977 as a marksman and as a sniper since 1982. He was involved in two or three armed sieges a year.

When a bullet from his .38 magnum Smith and Wesson revolver struck John Shorthouse in the heart, it was the first time he had fired on operational duty.

PC Chester, regarded by his colleagues as an ideal and level-headed officer, was said by Sergeant Alan Slater, his "pal" during the Shorthouse raid, to have been as calm and cool as usual.

PC Chester had been on a sergeant's promotion course the day before the Birmingham raid and he and his pregnant wife spent the evening dining with friends, before leaving home shortly after 3 am for a rendezvous point.

Bitter mother blames armed police raiders

The mother of John Shorthouse still holds the police entirely responsible for her son's death, and will not blame her husband, whose part in a robbery led to the armed police raid on their matrimonial home in Birmingham (Craig Seton writes).

Mrs Jacqueline Shorthouse, aged 26, said: "I wish my husband John had never been involved in crime and I have told him he should never have done it."

"He wishes he had never gone on the raid, but I cannot hold him to blame. I hold the police totally responsible. They should not have been armed when they came to the house. It was not my kid's fault that John did wrong. Why should we suffer?"

Mrs Shorthouse broke down as she said: "The police must have known my husband was a married man with young children."

"I hate the police. I feel very bitter. I do not hate every

after only four and a half hours sleep.

He insisted that he had been under no stress and told Stafford Crown Court: "I do not react to pressure, everyone on training will tell you that."

But, 50 per cent of West Midlands officers who train to be marksmen fail because their temperament or marksmanship is at fault. The force has only 225 firearms officers, about 3.5 per cent of its 6,500 strength, well below the 10 per cent allowed under Home Office guidelines.

Chief Inspector David Evans, the head of firearms training in the West Midlands, confirmed that the role of his department was being examined by the police authority and that a full-time squad was an option.

"True psychological assessment does not exist at the moment. Perhaps there is room for development there," he said.

Recommending an elite unit to be deployed exclusively in operations where guns were required, the police committee report said: "This force places great emphasis on community policing and cannot reconcile this with asking the same policeman to use firearms. To take an officer off the beat and put him into a highly-charged situation is unprofessional and unacceptable. It is not possible for an officer to make this sort of judgement."

The committee cited accidents, including the case of Miss Gail Kinchin, a pregnant girl, aged 16, who was shot by West Midlands officers in 1980 as her boy friend used her as a shield. She died later.

Four years ago, a police gun was fired during a raid and the bullet struck a bed where a child was sleeping. More recently a member of the force's tactical firearms squad shot a police woman in the leg with a plastic training bullet.

The committee said: "We have a shocking record in the West Midlands. The time has come to improve the situation before further, unnecessary deaths occur."

He said there was "a strong case for a fairly precise strengthening of the law." He did not give details but said that the Government had agreed "roughly" what to do.

Mr Hurd told a Bristol press conference: "We have agreed on a proposal which will be putting to Parliament which will not criminalize trespass in general, but will, I hope, fill the gap and provide us with a way in which the law can be used more quickly and more effectively to meet the kind of mischief which people in the West Country endure."

The timing and tactics of putting it to Parliament had not yet been decided but he hoped the measure would be in place "reasonably soon."

One option being considered was that it might form part of the Public Order Bill. He believed it could cope with the "mischief" without problems of antagonizing ordinary trespassers, rambblers or bird watchers.

Mr Hurd was on a day-long visit to Bristol, meeting local Conservatives and Mr Ronald Broom, Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset. He was also meeting police recruits and visiting the Regional Crime Squad and its new drugs unit.

Mr Hurd recently announced that he was giving London police more special-



Mrs Thatcher in the chemistry class yesterday when she visited her old school at Grantham, Lincolnshire (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Thatcher moved as old school ties are renewed

By Mark Dowd

Britain's most illustrious grocer's daughter renewed her acquaintance with her alma mater when she arrived at Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School to open a £1.5 million extension yesterday.

It was Mrs Margaret Thatcher's first visit since February 1982 and she was visibly moved as she unveiled a plaque naming the Roberts Hall after her father, Mr Alfred Roberts, who was chairman of the board of governors for 23 years.

"It was he who taught me the hard lesson, never to follow the crowd but always to decide for myself which was the right way to go," she said.

One crowd that had clearly followed her was a group of 150 anti-nuclear campaigners, eager to voice anxieties about the possibility of a radioactive waste dump being sited at Fulbeck, about nine miles from Grantham.

Inside the building, the 700 girls sang "Now Thank We All Our God", before the Prime Minister visited the new chemistry laboratories. Bashful pupils stared into their test tubes as she walked around.

Outside once more, the Prime Minister exchanged a few words with the demonstrators, before she left by Royal Air Force helicopter.

'Strong case' for curb on hippies

By a Staff Reporter

A measure to curb the activities of hippies will shortly be considered by Parliament, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said yesterday.

He said there was "a strong case for a fairly precise strengthening of the law." He did not give details but said that the Government had agreed "roughly" what to do.

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Consul in rape bribe allegations

A British honorary consul was due to be interviewed yesterday over allegations that he tried to buy the silence of two rape victims.

British diplomats were to question Mr Paul Kutner, a London-born businessman and British Honorary Consul in Perpignan, France, over reports that he offered two girls £3,000 not to testify in a rape case involving two French youths, aged 19.

He is alleged to have made the offer when he visited the homes of the girls.

The Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that a top British diplomat would be questioning Mr Kutner over the allegations. A spokesman said that the matter was under investigation by the French authorities.

The spokesman said: "He is not a member of the diplomatic service. He is a British national and like many of our honorary consuls he receives a small gratuity for the tasks he performs on our behalf."

Diplomatic immunity - if the police were to discover that a crime had been committed - would not be applicable. Under the agreement between Britain and France immunity is only granted in respect of acts performed in an official capacity.

Firemen claim sex bias on haircuts

Three firemen claiming sexual discrimination against the London Fire Brigade when they were ordered to have a haircut, said at an industrial tribunal yesterday that they should be treated the same as women.

One of them, David Williams, aged 26, from Ware, Hertfordshire, said men should be given the same option as women, to tie up their hair.

Mr Williams, Alan Warwick of Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, and Ron Bonner, of Hainault, north-east London, who are all based at Tottenham Fire Station, were ordered to have a haircut on January 9. Although they expected the order they claimed they should be given the option to either have their hair pinned up or tied back.

Mr Williams said that when he questioned the haircut order he was told that women were expected to have long hair and under no circumstances would women be ordered to have a haircut. The length of his hair does not affect the wearing of a mask.

Mr Williams now has blond, permed collar-length hair. Two women work alongside him at Tottenham. One has short hair and the other has long hair kept in a pony tail.

Mr Peter Brady, representing the men, told the tribunal in Euston, central London, that the men should not be treated differently from women. "They were prepared to have their hair pinned up or tied back in the interest of safety."

"In these days where longer hair is more fashionable it is a detriment to them to be required to have shorter hair," he said.

Mr Paul Stewart for the London Fire Brigade, said the authority had a duty to take action against the men for offences of untidiness.

"A reasonable fireman, when told to get his haircut because it is offensive to authority, wouldn't take the view he was being subjected to any detriment."

"Men and women are subject to the same regulations concerning tidiness, appearance and hair length but there are recognized to be some differences in approach which relate to the personal appearance of men and women in the authority."

"In this case, the evidence is that they are treated equally subject to that difference, which results from the nature of men and women."

Mrs Marjorie Don, chairman of tribunal, said that judgement would be reserved.

Canalettos fetch £594,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Two views of Venice painted on copper by Canaletto, which sold for £5,800 at Sotheby's in 1953, secured £594,000 at Christie's yesterday.

One depicts the Riva degli Schiavoni and the other the Molo with unromanticized accuracy. Only nine paintings on copper by Canaletto are known to survive and they are considered to be the first of his paintings to aim at a purely

topographical presentation without an accent on the picturesque. They formerly graced the Ashburnham collection.

Christie's sale of Old Master paintings included three expensive works which failed to sell, a Pieter Brueghel, a Ruysdael and a Tiepolo, which left 23 per cent unsold in the sale totalling £2,450,000.

Early oak furniture is not in the eye of fashion and the furnishings lovingly collected by Tom Burn to fill his Jacobean manor at Rous Lench brought prices much in line with expectations at Sotheby's yesterday.

The sale, however, contained a sprinkling of surprises. A deliciously embroidered silk and stumpwork basket of around 1660 sold for £41,800 (estimate £8,000-£12,000).

Spy trial hears evidence in camera

By Stewart Tandler

Crime Reporter

A number of prosecution witnesses gave evidence "in camera" yesterday, the fifth day of the trial of an East German couple accused of espionage.

Reinhard Schulze, aged 33, and his wife Sonja, aged 36, of Cranford, west London, have denied charges under the Official Secrets Act.

Mr Justice Michael Davies told the court yesterday that Mr Michael Hill, QC, who is defending Mrs Schulze, will be back in court on Monday, after being taken ill and collapsing earlier in the week. The judge said that his collapse had not been serious.

The case was adjourned until Monday.

Chippendale collection safe

A grant of £6,100,000 agreed by the National Heritage Memorial Fund this week has safeguarded the future of Nostell Priory, Yorkshire, whose contents include what is probably the world's finest collection of Chippendale furniture.

There were fears that Lord St Oswald, who lives there, might have to sell much of the furniture to pay a £3 million tax bill. The grant is to meet the tax obligations and create a charitable trust for the house's upkeep.

Fares plea by jobless father

The Court of Appeal reserved judgement yesterday on whether an unemployed father is entitled to have his children's taxi fares paid for by the Department of Health and Social Security when they visit him.

Mr John Vaughan, who lives in Liverpool, is banned from seeing his estranged wife with whom the children live during the week, has claimed that he should not have to pay £8 a week out of supplementary benefit.

Policemen sent for trial

A police sergeant and four constables accused over the alleged "Holloway transit van" attack in August 1983, were committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court by Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Charges against Police Sergeant Colin Edwards, aged 33, of West Hampstead station, of assaulting four boys, causing actual bodily harm and assaulting a fifth boy were dismissed owing to insufficient evidence.

Wedding gift for charity

When Rosemary Carson and Peter Holm marry today there will be no presents from relatives and friends - but there will be a lot of happiness for abused children.

They were so shocked by a recent case of child abuse that instead of sending out a wedding present, they asked guests to donate to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. They have raised £245.

Banned pupil 'top of class'

Sarah Hearn, aged 15, who was banned from Park School, Barnstaple, Devon, nine months ago for leading a pupil protest, has come top of the class.

She has passed the first part of her final examination in her City and Guilds Community Care course with four distinctions.

Magazines promoting weapons may face ban

The Government is preparing to consider banning so-called "survivalist" magazines which encourage people to arm themselves with weapons such as crossbows, a Home Office minister said yesterday.

The move would depend on the police advising that it would help prevent crime, Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, said.

In a letter to Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth Drake, Mr Shaw said that inquiries were already under way into firms supplying the magazines and equipment.

"We have previously considered the suggestion that the availability of violence of this type facilitates violence or terrorist crime and that there should be additional powers to ban it."

"However, the view of the police is that such manuals are not likely to be used by those involved in terrorism or other crime, and they have advised us that similar publications could easily be imported."

Dennis Tindale, aged 49, a farmer, has been ordered at Lincoln Crown Court to pay a fine, costs and compensation totalling £467 after an incident in which he ran over a pet ferret.

Tindale, of Village Farm, High Street, Marton, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, was said to have been chasing two rabbit hunters with his tractor.

He was ordered to pay Barry Laverick and his brother Raymond Laverick £143 compensation for causing criminal damage to the ferret and a shotgun; fined £50; and told to pay £274 costs.

Tindale was appealing against a conviction at Gainsborough Magistrates' Court in May. He denied chasing the

Building guarantee is curbing the cowboys

The threat posed by cowboy builders, who are often guilty of shoddy workmanship or failing to do agreed work, is being combated by guarantee schemes against loss and increased publicity about their activities, according to the Building Employers' Confederation (Our Property Correspondent writes).

The confederation said yesterday that more than 2,000 contracts worth nearly £11 million have been registered under its own guarantee scheme.

The figures coincide with those in the recent annual report of the Director General of Fair Trading, which showed that, for the first time in recent years, the number of consumer complaints about shoddy building work fell, during the year ending September 1985, by more than 10 per cent.

The reports suggested that financial institutions lending money for house improvement work had a duty to ensure that it was done by adequate and responsible builders.

Mr Justice Schiemann ordered the retired businessman to keep to an agreement he signed last year with J W Spear & Son, manufacturers of Scrabble.

The judge granted injunctions to Spears banning Mr Finlay from promoting Scrabble games on a commercial basis, and from writing or talking publicly about the game.

A Spears spokesman said yesterday: "This order effectively keeps him out of Scrabble. But it must be stressed it does not affect his involvement in any other word games."

Mr Finlay said: "I am disappointed at the outcome. I shall continue promoting word games but in the light of the order, not Scrabble."

Scrabble wins battle of words

A High Court judge has had the last word in the battle over the board game Scrabble.

He has ordered Thomas Finlay, a word game enthusiast, to stick to the letter of the law in not incorporating Scrabble in his Wordmasters Tournament.

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Test-tube babies

First frozen-egg births

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The birth of the world's first two babies from frozen eggs, announced by doctors in Australia yesterday, may lead to many of the controversial ethical problems of test-tube fertilization being resolved.

The birth of the twins to a woman aged 29 in Adelaide could mean that the storage of human embryos will eventually no longer be necessary.

The new technique offers an alternative to embryo freezing, a process which poses complex dilemmas for doctors, researchers and infertile couples.

The twins, a boy and a girl, were born after three of the woman's eggs were frozen to minus 196 degrees centigrade, thawed, then fertilized with her husband's sperm in the laboratory and implanted in her womb.

Two of the fertilized eggs survived and the pregnancy progressed normally.

Dr Christopher Chen, who pioneered the technique at the Flinders Medical Centre, said yesterday that the parents, a professional couple who did not want to be identified, were

"delighted" and the twins were "doing well" after a Caesarean delivery.

The mother had damaged fallopian tubes and had been trying unsuccessfully for seven years to conceive.

"This technique is expected to overcome many of the complex ethical, social, legal, moral and religious problems which are associated with embryo freezing," Dr Chen said.

"There has always been pressure from groups who object to the use of human embryos, but until now there has been no way to relieve that pressure. I think it is a matter of respect for human life."

A spokesman for the centre said that because the eggs were not fertilized before freezing, they were not life, but ordinary human cells.

Dr Robert Edwards, scientific director of the Bourn Hall clinic in Cambridgeshire, and one of the pioneers of test-tube baby techniques, said yesterday: "This progress is very encouraging and will help solve some of the ethical problems. It is certain to be followed by clinics in other countries."

"We are working now on freezing very early fertilized eggs to try to avoid some of the dilemmas about embryos. But to me the ethical advantage of freezing eggs rather than embryos would be outweighed by finding the best means of achieving a successful pregnancy for the mother."

The first baby to be born from a frozen embryo was Zoe Leyland, in Melbourne, in April 1984. That process was controversial because a percentage of the fertilized eggs, seen by opponents of the technique as constituting life, died in the freezing process.

Present methods of in-vitro fertilization involve the risk of a surplus production of eggs and embryos, which if all are implanted increases the chances of a multiple pregnancy.

To avoid the risk to mother and babies, specialists who have been replacing only a few of the embryos to achieve pregnancy have been faced with the dilemma of what to do with the remaining "spare" embryos.

Penang court told drug pair's death warrants already signed

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Time is running out for the two condemned Australian drug-traffickers, Brian Geoffrey Chambers and Kevin John Barlow, who were born in Britain.

In an unexpected development yesterday, Tan Sri Abu Talib Osman, the Malaysian Attorney-General, told a stunned High Court sitting in Penang that the order to execute the pair had been issued and the courts had no more say in the matter.

Informed sources here said last night that the two men could be hanged as early as Monday morning.

But prison officials at Pudu jail, where they are being held on the death row, refused to confirm this, and would only say that they had not been hanged yet.

Mrs Barbara Barlow, Kevin Barlow's mother, told *The Times* last night that she was disappointed and very upset by the news. There was no comment from Mrs Sue Chambers, the mother of Geoffrey Chambers.

Barlow and Chambers were arrested for drug-trafficking in 1983, with 179 grammes (6.3 oz) of heroin found on them, and were sentenced to death in July, 1985. The Supreme Court confirmed their death sentences in December. The Pardon Board rejected their clemency petitions two weeks ago.

Plea to King

Lord Gifford, QC, sponsor of the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad, sent a telegram to the King of Malaysia yesterday saying: "In the name of humanity and justice I urge you to stay execution of Barlow and Chambers pending current judicial proceedings."

The Penang hearing, to stay the executions pending further legal moves, had been put off until yesterday after Mr Shaari Yusoff, the Penang state legal adviser, had assured the court last week that the warrant of execution would not be issued, meanwhile.

Yesterday, Tan Sri Abu Talib said Mr Shaari had no authority to say what he did. Lawyers for Barlow and Chambers noticed something was not right when the judge assigned to the case, Mr Justice Edgar Joseph, stayed in his chambers, and Mr Justice Peh Swee Chin came from Ipoh, 150 miles to the south, to preside. He has now postponed the hearing until July 14, but lawyers believe the case is becoming rather academic.

Mr Subash Chandran, counsel for Chambers, said yesterday: "It is scandalous to execute the two men when proceedings are under way."

We are asking the Governor to stop the executions in the name of humanity."

But Tan Sri Abu Talib said: "The court has decided it has no jurisdiction over a stay of execution. It is not that the Pardon Board has not considered all aspects of the case as alleged by the lawyers. We have considered everything."

The last avenue open to the two men is an appeal to Tun Awang Hassan, the Governor of Penang. This morning, their lawyers will call at his residence, hoping they would be received and their request for a stay of execution allowed.

"It is their last hope," one lawyer said, "but they are clutching at straws."

If Barlow and Chambers are executed, they will be the first whites to be hanged in Malaysia since the Second World War. In the intervening years, 35 men and one woman have been sent to the gallows for drug offences under Malaysia's tough anti-drug laws. Another 72 have been sentenced to death but are awaiting the outcome of their appeals.

On Thursday, a labourer, aged 54, was sentenced to death after having been found in possession of more than 3 kilograms (6.6 lbs) of opium. A man, aged 71, who was arrested with him was acquitted for lack of evidence.



Military police firing to disperse anti-government protesters in Santiago during the strike.

Seven die in Chilean general strike

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

Seven people are dead, 50 have bullet wounds and at least 600 are under arrest as a result of the two-day general strike in Chile this week.

Unequal confrontations between stone-throwing youths and combat troops went on late into the night on Thursday, the last day of the strike, accompanied by frequent bomb blasts and volleys of machine-gun fire.

Details of the unrest became extremely difficult to obtain on Wednesday after the Government banned the news broadcasts of four popular Santiago radio stations.

The archbishop of Santi-

ago, which is responsible for two of the radio stations, condemned the military Government's action and called on the armed forces, "whose mission should be to defend citizens' rights, to abstain from actions which will increase the spiral of violence in the country."

The Government has filed charges against a journalist of the opposition magazine *Caceres* for a recent report on the illegal revolutionary left movement.

The director, columnist and journalist of *Andrés Bello* magazine also face serious charges for allegedly maintaining "a constant criminal line of conduct in both editorial and opinion pieces".

In the past two days troops and police have virtually invaded many of the poor areas surrounding Santiago. At least four people have died in shooting incidents.

By Thursday evening, the 22-member directorate of the National Assembly of Civil Society, which called the strike, had been replaced by a 10-member council headed by the president of the teachers' confederation, Señor Osvaldo Verdugo. The original directorate has been charged with violating security laws.

The groundswell of opposition - being fuelled by Miss Maria Tam, a well-known legislator, the influential *South China Morning Post*, several mass-circulation Chinese language newspapers and numerous prominent educators and scientists - has been greatly intensified by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

One argument being made against the Daya Bay plant is that Hong Kong's population is so dense that any accident could cause radiation sickness in huge numbers, and there would be no feasible way of evacuating the near six million residents of the city.

Some critics of the project have suggested that the plant be fuelled by coal or oil, especially in view of the recent collapse of the world oil price. But Sir Jack Cater, a former official of the Hong Kong Government who is now on the board of the Hong Kong company, which is a joint venture with China, is building the plant, said yesterday he believed the project would go ahead as planned.

The scheme involves two French nuclear reactors and turbine generators made by Britain's General Electric Company. Most of the power produced would be sold to the Hong Kong firm of China Light and Power.

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Fears of ballot-rigging

Mexico rulers face fair-vote challenge

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Mexico's ruling party faces this weekend what many believe to be its toughest electoral challenge yet, with church leaders joining opposition parties in calling for widespread protests should government officials resort to vote-rigging, a not uncommon practice.

Elections for governor take place tomorrow in the states of Chihuahua, Durango, Michoacán and Zacatecas. In Chihuahua there will also be polling for the national Congress and for mayors.

It is in Chihuahua, up on the US border, that it is widely felt the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is most likely to have to fix the vote if it is to preserve its record of having won every state and presidential election in the past 37 years.

Chihuahua, the biggest Mexican state, is the size of Spain, but has a population of only three million. Chihuahuans, belying the canine association, are a tall, sturdy people, cowboy stock from which sprang Pancho Villa, leader of Mexico's 1910 revolution.

Conscious of a tradition to uphold, Chihuahua is a stronghold of the country's main opposition party, National Action (PAN). A business-based party of the right, it believes the PRI will use widespread fraud to try to deny it an historic victory.

The main party of the left, the Unified Mexican Socialist Party (PSUM), appears to share that belief. "Everything is already cooked up to consummate a monumental fraud, an unprecedented swindle," Señor Antonio Becerra, the PSUM candidate for the governorship, said.

Mr Adelberto Almeida, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chihuahua, has publicly condemned as a "sin" what he also sees to be the impending fraud, a prediction based essentially on the PRI's total control of the state electoral apparatus.

"We are with the people against electoral fraud because we consider it to be unjust, because it violates human rights, because it is a mockery of the people and because it takes away the legitimacy of the Government."

Church leaders have joined unions and opposition parties in calling for the setting up of human road-blocks all over the state - the aim being to paralyse Chihuahua - should the vote be fixed.

It is feared that post-electoral violence will be worst in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua's biggest town. Troops arrived this week to help police to prevent rioting.

More than a hundred foreign reporters, mostly Americans, have also arrived in Ciudad Juárez, much to the indignation of PRI officials, who see them as an encouragement to the PAN both to cry fraud and provoke anti-government violence.

Despite well-documented evidence of massive fraud in state elections last year, the PRI scoffs at predictions that it will be resorting to such methods this time.

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Envoy invites dissident as Seoul protests

Seoul (Reuters) - The American Ambassador to South Korea met the dissident leader Mr Kim Dae-jung yesterday for the first time since President Chun Doo Hwan came to power in 1980.

Aides to the Ambassador, Mr Richard Walker, said Mr Kim attended an Independence Day reception at Mr Walker's residence.

The Government has protested to the embassy over Mr Kim's invitation, government sources said.

Before attending the reception, Mr Kim urged Washington to support "the democratic movement in Korea in order to restore friendly relations".

Hu criticizes Mao and praises party debate

From A Correspondent, Peking

In a speech that appeared on the front pages of China's most influential newspapers this week, the Communist Party secretary, Mr Hu Yaobang, criticized Mao Tse-tung's "reluctance to accept views differing from his own" and reiterated Mr Deng Xiaoping's view that dissent is healthy.

Mr Hu said that although the 1930s marked "the peak of Mao's theoretical work to develop Marxism", by the 1950s he had become too rigid in his thinking.

Mr Hu also criticized "some comrades in the party, especially young comrades", who "feared contradictions and

were not forthright enough in putting forward their views".

The party had learned from the past mistake of automatically branding those with differing views as promoting "right deviations" or "following a capitalist road".

Those who did not favour the principles and policies adopted by the Central Committee but who strived to abide by them were "free to hold their reservations".

But Mr Hu warned cadres who "tried to promote ideas and policies antagonistic to those of the Central Committee" that they would face disciplinary action.

26 drown in Bangladesh ferry sinking

Dhaka - Twenty-six people were drowned when a monsoon storm capsized a boat in the River Jamuna in central Bangladesh, the Bengali-language daily *Dainik Bangla* reported yesterday (Ahmed Fazl writes).

The boat was ferrying passengers between the northern river port of Sirajganj to Tangail, five miles away. About 14 people survived.

The backlash from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Public figures, environmentalists and newspapers here are creating a near-hysterical wave of opposition to the construction of a nuclear power plant at Daya Bay in China, about 30 miles from Hong Kong's borders.

The groundswell of opposition - being fuelled by Miss Maria Tam, a well-known legislator, the influential *South China Morning Post*, several mass-circulation Chinese language newspapers and numerous prominent educators and scientists - has been greatly intensified by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

One argument being made against the Daya Bay plant is that Hong Kong's population is so dense that any accident could cause radiation sickness in huge numbers, and there would be no feasible way of evacuating the near six million residents of the city.

Some critics of the project have suggested that the plant be fuelled by coal or oil, especially in view of the recent collapse of the world oil price. But Sir Jack Cater, a former official of the Hong Kong Government who is now on the board of the Hong Kong company, which is a joint venture with China, is building the plant, said yesterday he believed the project would go ahead as planned.

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PARLIAMENT JULY 4 1986

Lord Barber says Mandela would have sought to end violence

SOUTH AFRICA

If the negotiating concept devised by the Eminent Persons Group had been implemented and Nelson Mandela released, his would have been a powerful voice for calm throughout South Africa, Lord Barber, a member of the EPG, said during a debate in the House of Lords.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said when she opened the debate that the British Government saw violence in South Africa as a symptom, not a cause, of that country's deep malaise and believed Pretoria was sadly mistaken if it thought it could deal with the problems by force. But gloomy as the outlook is (she said) it would be wrong to paint a picture devoid of any light or shade.

The situation in South Africa had evolved over the past two years.

President Botha had admitted that apartheid was outmoded. Reforms had been introduced that would have been unthinkable even a few years ago.

However, the pace of reform was painfully slow, with too little being done too late and too grudgingly.

Therefore, the South African Government had not had credit from black people or the international community. The focus was upon the distance still to be travelled, rather than upon the progress that had been made.

When the Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey Howe) started his trip to South Africa, he would not issue an ultimatum, nor make threats. He would impress upon the people he would meet that - as seen from Europe - South Africa could no longer delay the international dialogue that was being urged upon them.

The forces that will change South Africa are primarily internal, not external (she said). It will be difficult and it will take time.

We must reinforce the positive forces for change, such as strengthening the hand of liberal whites and the business community and signalling to black people that there is only a real prospect of a solution through negotiation and not through violence.

We do not see what would be gained (she said) by undermining the economy of the whole southern African region and encouraging the South African Government to retreat to the laager and fight to the bitter end for what could be many years.

They could hold out for a long time under such conditions. As long as there is hope of a peaceful solution, we must keep trying to work towards it and leave the South African Government in no doubt of the need to grasp their opportunity before it is too late.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Opposition peers, said all parties in the House were fundamentally opposed to apartheid and wished to end it quickly. They differed on the measures to be taken to deal with this great evil.

The Foreign Secretary (he went on) is an old friend of mine and I wish him well in his mission, but it requires a quite remarkable imagination to believe that Mr Botha and his friends are prepared to contemplate proposals that would come anywhere near international acceptance. I hope I shall be

formulated a possible negotiating concept, one requirement of the House of Lords. While it was clear the South African Government would like to release him, it was impossible to find a formula acceptable to that Government and to Nelson Mandela, one reason being that they could not logically release Mandela without also releasing other political prisoners in the same category.

The negotiating concept was left with the South African Government for two months and they neither accepted nor rejected it. At the second meeting with Mandela, he read it carefully and his answer was that while he could not speak for the African National Congress, as far as he personally was concerned he would accept the concept as a starting point.

I have no doubt (he added) from what he went on to say that if the concept had been implemented his would have been a powerful voice for calm throughout South Africa. I am convinced, and I weigh my words carefully, that he would have used all his efforts to bring an end to violence if that concept had been accepted.

When the group returned to Cape Town for its most important meeting so far with ministers on the constitutional committee, they began to report of the raids on the three neighbouring countries. I cannot understand (he said) why the South African Government could not have aborted the raids. That was not conducive to good will.

Lord St John of Bletso (Ind) a white South African who had lived in that country all his life, said he was not a non-racial South African democrat. He did not represent any political party or other interests. The choice in South Africa was between danger and disaster.

Negotiations were necessary with a wide spectrum of peoples, including

Reagan takes salute in day of pageantry for Statue of Liberty

From Michael Binyon, New York

An exuberant President Reagan, flanked by President Mitterrand of France, took the salute yesterday from the stadium where he had electronically unveiled the Statue of Liberty, as the international parade of tall ships majestically sailed up New York harbour.

With cadets ceremoniously manning the yard-arm, 22 magnificent vessels paid their tribute on America's Independence Day to the 151-foot copper-green statue, refurbished at a cost of more than \$265 million (£171 million) for its centenary.

With sails unfurled in the still air, schooners, barques, brigantines and ketches from all over the world, not seen in New York since the 1976 bicentennial celebrations, were the historic focus of the naval pageant that filled the city's huge harbour.

Up to 40,000 vessels of all description, from a two-man

and daughters have accomplished in this land of the free," President Reagan said.

Mr Reagan, enjoying himself hugely amid the celebration of his twin loves, patriotism and the US armed forces, had earlier taken the salute aboard USS Iowa of warships from today's more modern fleets. Sailors doffed their caps and gunfire echoed round the 750-mile coastline of New York harbour as the ships fired their 21-gun salutes.

The Iowa, the most powerful US warship of the Second World War which took Roosevelt to the Tehran conference, did not fire its 16-inch guns for fear of shattering all the windows in Manhattan.

Airforce jets from France and the US flew past overhead, streaming red, white and blue smoke. Harrier jets left the deck of the Ark Royal, moored also in the harbour, to give Britain's salute.

Awed crowds watched on land. Dominating everything, Miss Liberty held her newly kindled torch aloft at the centre of the harbour. Never has an American lady been so honoured. She was unveiled on Thursday evening when President Reagan sent a laser beam a mile across the harbour, turning on coloured lights that gradually bathed Auguste Bartholdi's famous creation in searing light.

Calling it "this mother of exiles, this vision of all we are and wish to be," Mr Reagan paid tribute to America's immigrant forebears, and was warmly effusive on the special relations with France. President Mitterrand spoke of the



Bob Hope receiving a Medal of Liberty award from President and Mrs Reagan at the celebrations.

Weizsäcker urges Britain to build stronger Europe

By Patricia Clough

Britain must take the lead in strengthening Europe's position towards the United States and the Soviet Union during its presidency of the European Community, President von Weizsäcker of West Germany said yesterday.

A stronger European profile in the world should be the "first priority" for the Community, he said. It would increase Europe's responsibility and influence and make it a more reliable partner within the Atlantic Alliance.

"Not a fragmented Europe but a Europe speaking with one voice will help to stabilize the alliance," he said. It would also be an important contribution to security and peaceful co-operation in East-West relations.

"We have to keep in mind that a stronger European presence would also help the Eastern European people," he added.

President von Weizsäcker, speaking at the end of his official part of his state visit to

Britain, said this point, which he also emphasized in his speech to both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, was "the main message I wanted to bring along."

He said he did not want to suggest that Europe should speak with one voice on all questions. In Africa or the Middle East, some countries had quite different relationships and traditions from others.

But on the main tasks, East-West relations and the health of the Atlantic Alliance, the development of a stronger and more vocal Europe was possible and should be looked on as the first priority and not an unrealistic vision.

He said Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and other government ministers he had met were "very open and interested" in the subject.

Anglo-German discussions on the Community were no longer dominated by matters like the budget dispute "but what both of us can do to strengthen Europe's role."

Leading article, page 7

Pope's heart goes out to Colombia jobless

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Identifying himself firmly with the plight of the poor, dispossessed and unemployed of Latin America, the Pope called for a more equal distribution of wealth to generate jobs and satisfy man's moral need for work.

"Let no one forget that the economic riches God has entrusted to man have a universal destiny, and therefore cannot be the exclusive patrimony of a few, be they individuals, groups or nations," he said when he returned to Bogotá on Thursday for the last engagement there of his Colombian tour.

Yesterday he continued his pilgrimage for peace in Colombia when he visited the Spanish colonial city of Popayán, which was devastated by an earthquake three years ago. Tomorrow he will visit the wilderness that was once the small town of Armero, where 25,000 people were killed when the Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted in November.

In a moving speech in Bogotá he told a crowd of more than one million in an area of

Cabinet mission for Fanfani

From Peter Nichols, Rome

A new phase opened in the search for a solution to the Italian political crisis last night when Senator Amintore Fanfani was assigned by President Cossiga to assess the difficulties of finding a new government.

President Cossiga arrived at this decision unwillingly. He had hoped that his private talks with the political leaders and other consultations would have been sufficient to allow the formation of a coalition similar to that which resigned last Friday.

The main quarrel is between the two largest parties in the outgoing five-party coalition. In particular, the Christian Democrats want some assurance, as the biggest of the five, of being able to regain the premiership from the Socialists, who have held it for a record three years.

This question of who should lead the next government almost immediately assumed first priority. Signor Bettino Craxi, the outgoing Socialist Prime Minister, sees no reason why he should step down when the public opinion polls are on his side. The Christian Democrats, in the Socialists' view, claim an unwarranted divine right to lead the coalition.

President Cossiga had hoped to be able to take steps yesterday to relaunch the five-party coalition. But his worst fears of a long crisis taking up much of the summer now look justified.

Senator Fanfani, who presides over the Senate and is constitutionally the second most important figure in the country, will require several days to make his report on the possibilities he sees of forming a new government.

Paris police chief quits

Paris — The Chief Commissioner of the Paris police, M Guy Fougier, has handed in his resignation following remarks made on television by the Minister of the Interior, M Charles Pasqua (Susan MacDonald writes).

Replying to a journalist's question on contradictory 1985 Paris crime figures issued by the police and the Interior Ministry, M Pasqua, known for his bluntness, said: "The Police Commissioner is responsible to the Government; he does what the Government tells him to do — if not, he is replaced within 24 hours."

M Fougier, aged 54, worked well with the Socialist Interior Minister, M Pierre Joxe, but had also become close to Jacques Chirac, who, as Mayor of Paris — and now Prime Minister — appreciated his fight against crime.



Fireworks exploding around the Statue of Liberty during the finale of the ceremony.

symbols the two countries shared, "the history we wrote together" and links from the Revolutionary wars to the American landings in Normandy.

He looked on with Gallic impassiveness at the extraordinary Hollywood song and dance spectacle with its eclectic cast of Frank Sinatra, Gregory Peck, Shirley MacLaine and Mikhail Baryshnikov. Across the water on Ellis Island, Robert de Niro and his son introduced Chief Justice Warren Burger, who

hammered up a nationally televised swearing-in ceremony of 25,000 new citizens who took their oath of allegiance from the football stadium in Miami to the shores of the Pacific.

Miss Liberty, open to the public today, was a sorry sight in 1983 with a broken nose, cracked right eye, swollen lips and stains on her gown. Extensively strengthened and altered internally, she looks almost the same now as she did in October (not July) 1886 when she was first unveiled, and some 334,203 immigrants

arrived in America. The television broadcast, which lasted all day, was one of the most extensive and technically complicated mounted by ABC. It included interviews by Ron Reagan Junior on board a millionaire's yacht, scenes below deck of the sailing ship and aerial views of a sky filled with blimps and helicopters of America's largest metropolitan area celebrating a birthday party that had become a extravaganza of sentimental indulgence.

Turkish Cypriots close border crossings to Greek side in tit-for-tat

Nicosia (Reuters) — The Turkish Cypriot authorities closed all border crossings to the Greek side of Cyprus, Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, announced here yesterday.

He said the move was a reaction to the closure of the border from the Greek side during a three-day official visit to north Cyprus by the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Turgut Özal, and to a statement by a United Nations spokesman that the visit was "regrettable".

"From now on, all entry and exit gates are closed," Mr Denktaş said. Meanwhile, Mr Özal ended his visit by reaffirming his determination to back the breakthrough Turkish Cypriot state.

He held a news conference before leaving for Ankara that Turkey would back the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" economically and politically.

But he said wider recognition for the territory, recognized only by Ankara, was "not urgent... What we stress to all countries is that the two (Turkish and Greek Cypriot) communities should be recognized as equal."

The visit was condemned by Greek Cypriots, who blockaded a United Nations

32 dead in ambush by Contras

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Thirty-two people, mostly women and children, were killed when US-backed Contras ambushed a lorry in northern Nicaragua, according to the Defence Ministry.

A brief communiqué said that only nine people survived, all with injuries, when the Contras detonated an anti-tank mine under the vehicle as it passed along a remote country road near Bocaydito, about 100 miles north-east of Managua in the mountains of Jinotega province.

In a separate ambush the ministry said one person died and seven were injured when the Contras fired on a passenger ferry plying the Escondido River between Rama and the Atlantic port of Bluefields.

The Government has protested over both incidents to the United States which it holds responsible for the activities of the Contras. The attacks occurred only a week after the US Congress voted to renew military and other supplies worth \$100 million to the Contras.

Iran televises victory

Tehran (Reuters) — Smoke from burning and exploding Iraqi tanks filled the sky over the recaptured Iranian border town of Mehran, and Iran claimed that its latest battlefield success showed that Iraq could not win the Gulf war.

Iranian television showed vivid scenes from the desert battlefield around Mehran, 105 miles south-east of Baghdad, which Iran took from Iraqi troops on Wednesday after a six-week occupation.

Iranian fighters crossed the chattered-up desert in speeding vehicles against a background of occasional exploding shells. Smoke and flames belched from some of

Emir of Kuwait curtails liberties

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Fearful of further attacks by his domestic enemies, the Emir of Kuwait has effectively stripped his country of the trappings of democracy, dissolving Parliament, suspending important constitutional guarantees and curbing the traditionally free and eloquent national press.

Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, who survived a car bomb assassination attempt last year, has told Kuwaitis that their country is facing "a destructive foreign conspiracy".

In reality, Kuwait is threatened with far more than this. After six years of support for the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War, Sheikh Jaber now has to contemplate the possibility of more Iranian victories in the conflict, following Iraq's recent capture of the border town of Mehran this week.

The opposition Iraqi al-Dawaa party, which not only tried to kill the Emir in May, 1985, but also bombed the American and French embassies in Kuwait in 1984 and probably started a huge fire at one of the country's main oil refineries last month, has now been further emboldened by Iran's success.

"The raging war between two of Kuwait's Islamic neighbours has almost reached its borders," Sheikh Jaber said in a decree published on Thursday. "Its security has been exposed to a fierce foreign conspiracy which threatens lives and has almost destroyed the wealth of the homeland... the country also faces an acute economic crisis."

Earlier this week, the Kuwaiti authorities made a series of arrests in the capital, detentions which reportedly included five members of the al-Dawaa party and two Palestinians said to be supporters of Abu Nidal's Syrian-financed assassination squads.

Sheikh Jaber has also asked Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, to form a new Government following the resignation of his own disputation Cabinet.

It was probably only a matter of time before Kuwait lost its little democracy, at least for the time being. Its press has long been one of the freest and most critical in the Arab world and the arrival of government censors in the offices of the daily papers was probably inevitable.

Sheikh Jaber's own peace of mind has evidently been deeply disturbed, evidence of which appeared in his decree when he said that "democracy is shaking... the situation is critical and terrorism will continue until everyone co-operates against the enemies of the homeland."

By enemies, the Sheikh means Iran, with those members of the al-Dawaa party who, anxious to install a pro-Iranian regime in Baghdad, would dearly like to make an example of Kuwait, so friends of President Saddam could see what fate awaited them.

Torture victim awarded damages

Harare (Reuters) — A Zimbabwean opposition parliamentarian was awarded 30,000 Zimbabwe dollars (£11,000) in damages yesterday for illegal arrest and torture by security agents.

Mr Kembo Mohadi, a member of the Zapu (PF) party, told the High Court that he was trampled on the stomach and had his head rammed into a canvas bag full of water while in detention from September 17 to December 20 last year.

Judge Mavis Gibson ordered the Home Affairs Minister, Mr Enos Nkala, to pay 15,000 dollars and awarded Mr Mohadi an equal amount from two intelligence agents who assaulted him.

Extremists shot dead

Delhi (Reuters) — Police yesterday intercepted and killed two members of a Sikh extremist gang that ranged through Punjab shooting dead six people and injuring two, children, apparently at random, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The shoot-out came during 24 hours of violence in the north Indian state in which 13 people were killed in disturbances sparked by extremists.

Berlin escape story scorned

Bonn — The West German Government, after examining the evidence, has decided it does not believe that a bloody escape attempt took place in the East Berlin underground railway on May 7 (Frank Johnson writes).

Herr Wolfgang Schäuble, the minister in charge of the Chancellery in Bonn, yesterday said in a newspaper interview that the report had "presumably" been the work of a "professional disinformation spreader".

Bomb charges

Madrid (Reuters) — A Palestinian and a Spaniard were remanded without bail yesterday by a Madrid court charged with a suitcase bomb attack which injured 13 people last week at Madrid's Barajas airport, court officials said.

Promotion

Peking (Reuters) — The Chinese Army will allow non-commissioned officer ranks for the first time as part of its reform programme, the New China News Agency said yesterday.

Dropped brick

Jakarta (Reuters) — A man in East Java was fined 4,000 bricks for committing adultery with his neighbour's wife, the English-language daily Jakarta Post said.

Baby buried

Dhaka (Reuters) — A newborn boy was found alive in the northern Tangail district, 24 hours after being buried to save his unmarried teenage mother from the penalties for illegal sex, Bangladesh police said yesterday.

Misdialled

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) — The Telecommunications Minister, Datuk Leo Moggie, tried to call Malaysia's million telephone subscribers yesterday — and got a wrong number.

Rude priest

Perth (Reuters) — Father Edward Patrick Hewitt, aged 40, a Roman Catholic priest, found guilty of indecent exposure while wearing a tiger-patterned G-string, was put on a six-month good behaviour bond yesterday.

Swansong

Peking (AP) — Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti gave a triumphant final performance at the end of his first tour of China yesterday before 10,000 people at the Great Hall of the People.

Campus theft

Stuttgart (Reuters) — A container of dangerous radioactive material produced for research has been stolen from the physics department of Stuttgart University, West German police said.

Hair raising

Vienna (AP) — Günther Maier's refusal to get a haircut got him out of the Army but into jail. He was convicted of "disobedience" and jailed for two months, the Austria Press Agency reported.

Killer floods

Katmandu (AP) — Flash floods have killed 32 people in a village north-west of Katmandu in the past four days, an official said.

Drug sentence

Haarlem (AP) — A Dutch court has jailed a Singaporean for five years for trying to smuggle more than 85g of heroin into The Netherlands.

World communist meeting proposed

Gorbachov silent on Jaruzelski plea

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Diplomats in Warsaw have been puzzling over an appeal, tucked away in a corner of General Jaruzelski's speech to the Polish Communist Party Congress, for a world conference of Communists bringing together West European, Third World and Soviet bloc party leaders.

What seems to be happening is that for the first time in more than five years the Soviet bloc is beginning to have new ideas about how the international communist movement should develop.

For several years the Czechoslovak leadership has been urging a world congress of Communists to build ideological bridges between the often rather isolated West European parties and the large ruling parties of Eastern Europe.

Prague was keen because it would be the natural host of

such a conference and because it regards its party as one of the most ideologically pure, having purged thousands of liberal reformers after the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion.

However, Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, seems firmly opposed to the idea and told an Italian communist delegation as much at a recent meeting.

His view is that the time has past for ideological policing — the catch-phrase now is "unity in differentiation" — and he gives the impression he does not like to be away from his Kremlin office for very long.

But General Jaruzelski — with Mr Gorbachov listening on the podium — declared: "Defence of peace is the supreme task. Guided by this conviction we deem it necessary that representatives of all communist parties and workers' parties assemble shortly to define jointly the lines and ways of the struggle for that great objective."

Mr Gorbachov did not echo this sentiment in his various Warsaw speeches but Mr Marian Orzechowski, the Polish Foreign Minister, said on Wednesday that the heads of visiting foreign delegations had welcomed the proposal and would inform their respective leaderships.

Probably Mr Gorbachov will accept the idea of a world conference orientated towards peace rather than ideology. Indeed, the new marketing machine of the Soviet bloc managed to make a recent Warsaw Pact summit in Budapest sound like a more disciplined version of a Green's peace jamboree with free-wheeling discussions of Chernobyl and Star Wars.

The Poles seem to be confident that the world conference can be staged soon but it will not be an easy ride with parties such as that of Italy not shy of raising such issues as the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. (The Italian Radical

Party parliamentarian, Signor Franco Corleone, and seven other Western demonstrators were expelled from Poland this week, having first been made to pay a hefty fine in a Warsaw magistrates court for trying to stage a demonstration outside the Polish Communist Congress.)

Mr Gorbachov meanwhile is publicly toying with the idea of bringing Comecon, the Soviet trading alliance, closer to being a communist Common Market, a mirror image of the European Community.

In an interview with Polish television he acknowledged there was some way to go but emphasized that communist states were changing scientifically and technologically.

"So far we have had simple commodity exchange but further economic relations will be characterized by the development of co-production ties, direct links between collectives."

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Hundred hungry

It is not only Dennis Amis and his Warwickshire supporters who are disappointed by his 5 and 46 in the match against Notts at Trent Bridge. He went in on Wednesday hoping this would be the game in which he hit his 100th century. "They don't come to order," he sighed. "Been a couple of hiccupps." Perhaps the answer is to drink champagne from the wrong side of the glass: he has been promised 100 bottles of bubbly when the magic moment comes, and it cannot come quickly enough for him. They have revised their book, *The Centurions*, about the 20 men who have scored 100 centuries in first-class cricket and added a chapter on Amis. A new edition is ready in the warehouse requiring only Amis to do the necessary. "It's a statistic that makes for certain constraints," he says. "I think everyone will be relieved when it's done." Unbridge, today?

Horseplay

It used not to be thought nice for women to be competitive. But in America, where "everyone is competitive," a lift between two women jockeys led to a fight, culminating in one having a tetanus injection. It all began when Dedie Duns fell off her horse in a race at the Calder racecourse in Miami. She blamed fellow jockey Laurie Paynter, though a film showed later that a third (male) jockey was at fault. Miss Paynter insisted on an apology. Miss Duns replied: "You want to fight, you get off that couch and we'll settle this." The ladies at once joined battle, and a male jockey and the clerk of the scales were both hurt trying to separate them. Miss Paynter was bitten on the arm, had her tetanus jab and was unable to ride the following day. Miss Duns said: "We've taken hands and it's all behind us now."

Hobbs unhosed

Meanwhile, Anne White, surely the Mrs Shilling of women's tennis, was prevented from wearing another of her eccentric outfits at Wimbledon. Last year, she wore her, much photographed, white body stockings. This year she wanted to wear a pair of white tights bearing pale stripes in the All-England club colours of purple and green, beneath a conventional tennis skirt. That was forbidden by the officials. Had they forgotten that it was only in 1929 that Billie Tipton of South Africa became the first woman to play at Wimbledon without stockings?

Taking sides

Most people faced with the problem of dividing 16 teams into two groups would, after knitting their brows a while, come up with two groups of eight. However, the 16 teams competing for the ICC Trophy (the competition for non-Triple playing cricket nations) have been split into one group of nine and one of seven. There is an innocent explanation, the organizers say. The competition was devised for two groups of nine, but Singapore and West Africa, both in the same group, dropped out. It was too late to make changes. Cricket's reputation for a logical approach, already not over-strong, has been dealt another body blow.

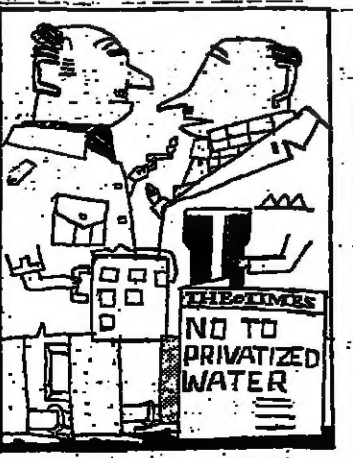
Winning whiff

There's an occasional TV ad showing a jockey going to the start, and then finding Bothamesque place in a cage. It is Clive Champman, a former National Hunt jockey who rode his last winner "some time in the States." But last week he had another - Magic Lord in an Arab Horse Racing Society meeting at Newton Abbot. He must have got through a box of Corona Coronas in celebration.

Reticent

Like thieves in the night they came, and like thieves they left. The United States - swimming team tipped into England this week on their way to the Goodwill Games (between USA and USSR) in mortal terror that London might be harbouring hordes of ferocious Libyans. They arrived with their team uniforms in their suitcases, in complete secrecy, and once in their hotel were not allowed to leave. Nor could they make any telephone calls or tell anyone they were there. Their only trip was to Crystal Palace for practice. They then left London for the sanctuary of Moscow.

BARRY FANTONI



"With this dry spell, there's probably more left"



Bernard Levin

Come stroll with me along my patch

Marylebone High Street, which has been my village green these many years, and for most of them a definition of unchanging permanence, has recently developed a very nasty attack of the raging instabilities; if many more shops disappear without warning, I shall begin to think that I am living round the corner from Beauchamp Place, a fate I would wish on no man.

This cry of anguish has been wrung from me by the abrupt and unsuspected closure of Morris's, which has long been the best fruiterer and greengrocer in the borough; I became uneasy when, a year or so ago, they gave up two-thirds of their premises to a Rank-Xerox copying parlour, but they squeezed themselves into the remaining bit with great ingenuity, and their quality was undiminished. Then, the other day, I went out to buy a pomegranate, a nectarine and a grape, only to find that they were not to be had at No 13, not even for ready money, and the windows were filled with announcements heralding the imminent transfer of the Oxfam shop from across the road.

That was the second fruit-and-vegetable emporium in the High Street to bite the dust; Russell's, which in excellence was second only to Morris's, folded up a year or so earlier, and, ominously enough, the shop has remained deserted ever since. A few doors along from Russell's there was an attempt by some daffie to make a living by selling nothing but nuts and chocolates, but that didn't last long, and I fully expected a recent arrival which announced itself as The Pasta Place to disappear equally quickly, but although they do sell pasta, they also sell a wide range of other things, all delicious and of high quality, and they also offer the friendliest and most charming service in the street. (All the service in the street used to be exceptionally good, and most of the shops were efficient as well. *Even Agaces*, if you don't mind my saying so.)

The best - and again, the friendliest - general food store, Leon's, left me some years ago; it was really a miniature supermarket, and now the only place which sells food of all kinds is the real supermarket, Hart's, which is only the old Alliance in new pinnies, and which wouldn't think of having assistants to pack the customers' goods as a checkout girl rings them up, lest it should give the customers the quaint idea that their convenience should be considered by the shop they are favouring with their custom. The Wimpy has gone, and I think I shall not try its successor, the Sizzling Grill, either. Woolworth's has gone, too, unmissed.

We now have a second ladies' hairdressers; very swish and plate-glassed, unlike the old one, which I am happy to say still survives, and at which many a beautiful lady has stopped for a titivate before ringing my doorbell. Francis Edwards, a most distinguished antiquarian bookseller (I once found there a beautiful ancient map of Monty on his birthday), has gone, but has been replaced by an astoundingly good second-hand one in Reads (s.k.a. Jolly); it is so good that that quiet madman who published *Drift's Guide* gets positively hysterical about it, and I dare say that he will launch straight into poetry for his next edition.

There are now four chemists; don't ask me how they all make a living. (Experts among my readers will realize from that item that I am including Thayer Street, and so I am, for I have never regarded it as anything but an extension of the High Street itself; a country cousin, perhaps.) We used to have a good butcher, in Druce's, but it was killed almost instantly when the best butcher-fishmonger in London arrived, and set up exactly opposite; the new one deserves its success (it is almost always crowded) for the quality of its meat and fish, the professionalism of its staff and the romantic nature of its name: Wainwright and Daughter. Competition will, I suspect, do for the

old photo-copiers, Immediaprint; it is cheaper than as cheap as that amazing place in Sackville Street, which is not only the cheapest photocopying establishment in London but the fastest and clearest as well, but the newcomers have much pleasanter premises and their machines are plainly superior.

We are well supplied with patisseries - three now - but one of them, apart from having been there at least as long as I have, is the king of all London's coffee-shops: Sagne. We have even got a baker again, which we haven't had for many years, but I do not think we shall ever again see a dairy. We used to have a real village store, where the proprietor would sell you absolutely anything, provided he could remember where he had put it; he went long ago, but we now have a pretty close approximation to a general store in a branch of Robert Dyas; they call themselves fridges, I believe, but they mong pretty well everything, as far as I can see.

Not everything deteriorates, not even in our sinful world. We have only once had a new-book shop, and that briefly (though it was very good). But one of the newsgroups has recently opened a basement bookshop, and I lifted down the stairs expecting to find nothing but Harold Robbins, only to be pleasantly surprised by a range remarkable for interest and even sophistication.

If we cheat a little, we can count, in Blagden's, an outstanding fishmonger, and Taylor's, the only bespoke shoemaker for miles around; it was he who made me the magic laces for the boots I wore on my Hannibal trek. But both of these are round the corner, in Paddington Street; only just

round the corner, mind you. (Round another corner is the best picture framer in Europe, the Railings Gallery.) We used to have a very good cobbler right in the middle of the High Street, but he disappeared mysteriously overnight. We do still have a luggage-repairer, though he is very quick, and his prices are reasonable, but he is unlikely, I think, to win gold cups for the friendliness of his demeanour.

An excellent florist, Gainsborough's, a simple trattoria, the Alpino, three building society branches (Woolwich, Leeds Permanent and Abbey National), banks, bookies, a ridiculous one-way system; jewellers, a Ryman's (Ryman's in general are getting above themselves; I suspect they must be close to monopoly. None of their shops now stocks any sticky-tape other than Sellotape, which is patently not the best and even if it were, shouldn't be the only kind you can buy there, and they won't do unfined A4 ring-binder scratch-pads.)

There are also boutiques. When I embarked on this exercise in nostalgia, I paused to go and count them. If you don't know the place, you will hardly believe it, but there are 19 women's clothes shops. (There are also four men's - one of them the great Martin Green's - and one for children. Who on earth keeps them going? How can they possibly be enough? Women in five square miles to buy enough clothes to keep 19 shops in business in about a hundred yards? (Possibly there aren't; I seem to have noticed that the replacement-rate is quite high.)

Best last, The Casson Gallery sells the work of British craftsmen, in metal, precious and otherwise; in wood; in pottery; in glass; in stone; in everything, indeed, that craftsmen take in their hands and turn into objects of beauty and usefulness. It is a wonderful place for looking, and an even more wonderful place for solving your present-day problems. I have never seen, in all the time I have been dropping in there, anything ugly, meretricious, or ill-made. And what is more, when you get to know, as well as I do, the lady who presides, she may make you a cup of tea while you browse. Now you never saw the like of that in Asprey's, did you?

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another lifelong friend and confidant. Her intelligence reports were much appreciated by me, and she was a great asset at the India, Foreign and Colonial offices. In a debate before the Balfour Declaration was published, Edwin Montagu, the only Jew then in the cabinet and the minister most bitterly opposed to the offer of Palestine to the Jews, quoted Gertrude Bell's pro-Arab views to his colleagues who, though impressed, were not persuaded.

Her post-war support for the Sharifites, the family of Husain ibn Ali of Mecca, finally ensured that if they were not given the whole of the Arabian peninsula, as they were promised during the war, they would at least have Transjordan and Mesopotamia (renamed Iraq) in return for the Arab Revolt. She and Lawrence propelled Churchill to that conclusion, though she warned Lawrence to "stop writing rot" in the press. France prevented Syria from becoming the third of the Hashemite states and Ibn Saud took the rest of his kingdom, the Hejaz, holy land of Islam, for himself.

The Foreign Office assistant who wrote in the 1930s that the world would be safer if Gertrude Bell and Lawrence had not been such persuasive writers may have come closer to the truth than he could have known at the time. Generals and politicians deferred to Gertrude throughout her career, sometimes to their cost.

Ten hard-working summers in the great heat of Iraq and a tribal rebellion against the new British-backed regime taxed her physically and robbed her of the will to live. She died from an overdose of sleeping pills soon after welcoming to Baghdad King Faisal, the son of Husain, hero of Lawrence's version of the desert war.

She held the stage to the end, in a new post as director of antiquities, when Sir Leonard Woolley began the excavation of "Ur of the Chaldees." Even Arab nationalists paid tribute to her dedicated work, though they often saw imperial bias where others saw Arabophilia. With an irony that would not have been lost on her, a kindly Arab gardener still puts flowers on her Baghdad grave against a background rumble of Iraqi and Iranian gunfire.

A lone woman in a man's world, she was vehemently opposed to the women's suffrage movement. But few were willing to put to the test her implicit belief that in such matters she was the exception that proved the rule.

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H.V.F. Winstone on the stirring life of Gertrude Bell, Arabist extraordinary

Al Khatun the fearless



Kings were her friends, T.E. Lawrence was her beloved boy, Gertrude Bell, for whom history was a romantic legend, drew the frontiers of much of today's Middle East, never knowing that her attempts at reconciliation would lead to even greater rivalries and divisions.

known books, *The Desert and the Sown* and *Amurath to Amurath*, had long since commended her to the knowledgeable. Her letters, published posthumously by her mother, were best sellers on both sides of the Atlantic in the 1930s.

Not until the publication of the war adventures of her "beloved boy", Lawrence, whom she first met at Caraceni in 1911 during his "archaeological" period, did her star begin to wane. Nowadays, she is likely to be confused with Vanessa Bell or Gertrude Stein, or to be regarded simply as a woman explorer of exceptional merit.

In fact, she discovered no hidden places, nor did she make any notable contributions to the filling-in of the "great white blot" of the Victorian map-makers. She was a fearless traveller and, in her youth, one of the finest of all women mountaineers whose journeys were paid for by a rich and indulgent family of North-east iron-masters. She came to love Arabia and its inhabitants, and in the end (by no means uniquely) allowed her heart to rule her head.

Her reputation rested, like Lawrence's, on a characteristically English perception of history as a romantic legend. Her great contribution to the understanding

of Arabia and its people was her observation, a quality doubtless borne in mind by her lifelong friend, David Hogarth, when he called her to serve in the Arab Bureau in Cairo during the first year of the 1914-18 war. Her descriptions of Arab chiefs and the events of the tribal territories are unsurpassed. Of King Abdal Aziz ibn Abdurrahman - or Ibn Saud as he preferred to be called - founder of modern Saudi Arabia: "A man of splendid physique... carrying himself with the air of one accustomed to command... his slow sweet smile and the contemplative glaze of his heavy-lidded eyes... he combines with his qualities as a soldier that grasp of statecraft which is yet more highly prized by the tribesmen..." She was writing for the benefit of the Foreign Office, of a man she heartily disliked!

It has been said that her pen was dangerously alluring, particularly in terms of official report writing, a quality which perhaps owed something to her flirtation with journalism in the first decade of the century when she became the eyes and ears of *The Times* in lands stretching from Suez to the Tigris, under the newspaper's foreign editor Valentine Chirol.

Caroline Moore

Yearnings that can only divide

The Movement for the Ordination of Women is not as unpleasant as its opponents make out. Only the staid minority disrupt church services, views the priesthood as if it were a cancer in the City, or an ecclesiastical El Vino's, or threaten darkly that it will be unable to control the anger of its members if their demands are not met.

If the majority in the movement used tactics of bludgeoning and blackmail the opposition would have a case. Behind this guerrilla vanguard, however, there is a non-monstrous regiment of women whose chief weapons are prayer and what they call "silent witness". Members of the women's ordination movement are constantly accused of "secularism". But most talk not of "rights", but of dedication; they wish other women to be ordained because they believe it to be God's will, or wish to be ordained themselves because they feel they have a vocation - that they are called by God but denied by man. It must be galling, in such circumstances, to be called upon by assorted church correspondents, *Daily Telegraph* leaders and John Selwyn Gummer to exercise self-denial.

No one should doubt the faith, sincerity and patience of this silent majority - compelled to silence, for the Church has no authorized form of language in which to pray for the alteration of its forms of authority. Their very sincerity, however, has dangerous implications. It relies upon inward conviction, upon feeling, in all its formlessness.

Vocation has been described by a woman as an "ache" to be a priest; less movingly, many rely upon mere assertion that they "feel" or "know" that they are the instruments to implement God's will. The Spirit, they claim, is effect, is working through them. Such "sincerity" is the stuff of religious enthusiasm.

In its belief that it has the power to see beyond and do away with existing forms as unnecessary and restrictive, the movement is allied to those enthusiastic sects of second-century Phrygia or 17th-century England. The central issue, then as now, is that of authority. And the relation between private and public, inward certainty and the established forms, the individual and the Church, is also a question of the relation between the present and the traditions of the past.

The Protestant church did not do away with the authority of tradition; it merely elevated the authority of the Scriptures above the authority of the Church. But even when the Bible was consid-

ered to be a work of divine revelation, applying unequivocally to all ages, it was subject to different interpretations.

In practice, every Christian disregards or takes metaphorically certain precepts and examples, and believes in certain doctrines, such as the Trinity, for which Scriptural evidence is slight. The Protestant, at least, believes that the authority of Scriptural precept and example established the tradition of the Church, but the orthodox of the Church of course established the canons of authoritative Scripture, and guide our reading of them.

The non-believer will see only the self-perpetuating circularity of this. The progressive will see only its apparent resistance to change, and its apparent denial either of the needs of the private individual (which are labelled enthusiasm) or of the needs of the present (which are labelled secularism). But those who are about to attempt to depart from the example set by Christ in history, and break with a 2,000-year tradition, should at least consider the extent to which both sincerity and present relevance depend for a Christian, upon the wholeness of his inherited Church.

The traditional focus of the liturgy are in themselves unimportant; yet for a Christian they not only express, but define, embody and form his religious faith. They offer a "sincerity" and wholeness that is greater than the mere personal, or the merely present, by participation in an act of communal worship, whose community is not just the parish, but the Communion of Saints and which therefore spans past and present, and will, one hopes, embrace the future.

It is strange, in an age that is so ready to admit the need for a "sense of community" and "communal roots" to give relevance and meaning to life, that so many should be ready to disregard the notion of the communion of the whole Church, and its roots in a living (and flexible) tradition.

Even those who cannot believe that the well rehearsed Catholic arguments against the admission of women are any more than a dead letter should not disregard the force of the argument that to ordain women would, as things now stand, divide us yet further from the rest of Christendom; and even those who have in practice abandoned any belief in the ultimate unity enjoined by our creed must be moved by the reflection that their actions will cause intolerable schisms within the Church of England itself.

Woodrow Wyatt

A blueprint to beat boredom

Governments have little time to think. Ministers' immediate problems fill the waking hours, driving out reflection or chess with one another about the future. Presumably the Tories' new strategy group of senior ministers is intended to cure this occupational deficiency. Ideally it should shut itself away in a country house for a week and cut off the phone. After three days some fresh thoughts might bubble up.

A dangerous enemy of this government is public boredom. It will have been in office eight or perhaps nine years by the next election. Millions of new voters will have spent their formative years of awareness of the world under its aegis. They have no recollection of life under Labour. Many might be tempted to give the cheery Mr Kinnock or the handsome, forceful Dr Owen a whirl. A change of government is superficially exciting.

It is not sufficient for the Tories to remind us of their achievements, important though these are. Nor are warnings of the havoc if they were undone. There must be something new.

The National Health Service is in a rut. That is why those who answer opinion poll questions say they would be willing to pay higher taxes to improve it and the social services, even though they may not really mean it. But more money spent on the NHS tends to go on paying more to swollen staff without much improving services to the patients. The solution could be the creation of a special fund to finance projects of direct help to patients - for example the purchase of more kidney machines and equipment to conduct eye operations to the world's highest standards.

There is general unease over education. The school population goes down, but so do educational standards. There is plenty of money for education: it is not organized efficiently. Kenneth Baker, the new Education Secretary, is on the right track in waiting to have greater central government control. That might remove some of the anomalies whereby local education authorities such as the ILEA spend more money per pupil than almost anywhere else and get some of the worst examination results.

But the gap between private and public education would remain. The Tories believe in the efficiency of the market place. Why don't they try it in education and give parents a real choice, perhaps by putting into effect its voucher plan? That would encourage good schools and destroy the bad.

The Tory strategy group should

look at every field where the government is dominant and shake off the closed thinking on the welfare state of the last 40 years. It should ask itself: supposing all the main services now provided by the taxpayer were to be started from scratch - how would we run them?

Unemployment in Britain is still running at 13 per cent compared with the French, West German and American figures of 10, 8.6 and 7 per cent respectively, and our inflation rate is higher too. In Britain, for those in work, pay rises of around double the rate of inflation make it hard to be competitive, both at home and abroad, diminishing the chances of a sharp fall in unemployment.

It will not be until 1990 that the yearly increase in the labour force will drop to around 40,000 a year, making it easier to reduce unemployment without further government action. Meanwhile, however unjustly, the government is blamed for the continuing high level of unemployment. The strategy group should develop more ideas appealing to the public imagination along the lines of the new workers scheme giving employers a subsidy when they take on new 21s.

Most people were in their own self-interest, marginally tilted by philanthropy. Self-interest would suggest that the 87 per cent in work whose real income, after allowing for inflation, has improved by 25 per cent since 1979 should bring another Tory victory. That cannot be relied on entirely. As the election approaches, Neil Kinnock, still burdened by Militants and obsessed by scrapping our nuclear deterrent and driving out the Americans, will seem less attractive. But David Owen is a different proposition. If it were thought that his views would dominate the Alliance and he would be its leader in the next parliament (but will he be?), there could be a move towards giving him enough seats to compel a coalition with the Tories (a coalition with Tory strategy group members). So that an Alliance defence policy would be no better than Labour's because of Liberal refusal to go along with Owen.

Above all the strategy group should inject the spring of youth into the Tory step. Just more of the same will make it look old and tired. But the same with lots of fresh and stimulating additions could be effective. Members of the group should test their ideas on the non-political young of their acquaintance before publishing them.

هكذا من الأصيل



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disputed risk of passive smoking

From Professor Robin Weiss and Professor Julian Peto

Sir, Your account (June 25) of a then unpublished study on the risk of lung cancer in the non-smoking spouses of smokers reported Sir Richard Doll's observation that passive smoking probably does cause lung cancer and asserted that "this verdict contradicts the conclusions of the latest research on the risks of passive smoking."

In point of fact, Sir Richard went on to say that the increase in lung cancer risk caused by passive smoking is probably between 10 per cent and 30 per cent. The study to which you refer suggested an 11 per cent increase in risk; and in the analysis restricted to lung cancer patients whose spouses were also interviewed, which may be more reliable, the estimated increase was 33 per cent. Far from contradicting Sir Richard Doll's conclusions, this study thus tends to confirm them.

Your report also says that on the basis of these results "the Institute of Cancer Research has concluded that inhaling other people's smoke carries no significant increase in risk of lung cancer." This research on the effects of passive smoking, which began in 1977, was conducted in collaboration with the Institute of Cancer Research but funded by the Tobacco Advisory Council, under an arrangement which included adequate safeguards of scientific impartiality.

Estimates of such relatively low risks are always uncertain, but both epidemiological research and measurements of the amount of smoke inhaled suggest that the risk to non-smokers of developing lung cancer as a result of living or working with smokers may be of the order of one in 1,000. This is about 100 times less than the risk to smokers, but it is probably 100 times greater than the risk caused by asbestos in contaminated schools and homes, and non-smokers are certainly entitled to ask that it be taken into account in considering further restrictions on smoking in public places.

Some readers may not be aware of the technical meaning of "not significant". It need not imply that an effect is negligible, as in normal usage, but that a particular survey included too few subjects to demonstrate an effect conclusively.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WEISS, Director,
JULIAN PETO,
Institute of Cancer Research,
Chester Beatty Laboratories,
Fulham Road, SW3.
June 27.

Collecting VAT

From the Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise

Sir, Richard Platten suggests (July 1) that in future businesses will have less time in which to submit their VAT returns than they do now. This is not so.

The due date for submission of returns remains one month after the end of the accounting period concerned and this will not be altered when the default surcharge on persistently late payments comes into operation. Moreover, the law specifically relates the "due date" to the date of receipt of the return by the Department, which will be recorded. The input of information to our computer is quite irrelevant.

Nor is it correct to say that a taxpayer will not know if his returns are received late. If this happens twice in any 12-month period, he will have clear warning that a further default could lead to surcharge. If postal delays are of a kind which could not reasonably have been allowed for, the default provides that the resultant default does not count for surcharge purposes.

Mr Platten also refers to problems with timely receipt of suppliers' invoices. He may like to know that the recent White Paper, *Building businesses... no barriers*, included a proposed review "cash accounting" where VAT would be claimed and paid on a cash basis, rather than on the basis of invoices to be completed by mid-1987.

Yours faithfully,
A.M. FRASER, Chairman,
The Board of HM Customs and Excise.
King's Beam House,
Mark Lane, EC3.
July 1.

Samuel Palmer echo

From Mr Raymond Lister

Sir, May I comment on two points raised by the President of the Royal Society of Painters in Water-colours in his letter published today (June 28).

He states that Palmer's political pamphlet is "now lost". In fact a copy was recently discovered by Mr Michael Collinge in the Maidstone Public Record Office. It is reprinted in full, with a commentary by Mr David Bindman, in *Blake, an Illustrated Quarterly*, Fall, 1985.

He states also that Palmer returned to London because of contemporary agricultural unrest. Whilst this may have been a factor in making up his mind to leave Shoreham, the main reason was his engagement to John Linnell's daughter, Hannah. His income was inadequate to support a wife, and it was only by returning to London that he could hope to increase this, by finding an adequate market for sales of his work and by building up a practice as an art teacher.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND LISTER,
Windmill House,
Linton, Cambridge.
June 28.

Manners, materials and memorials

From the Secretary of the Council for the Care of Churches

Sir, Bernard Levin's article (June 7) and the correspondence in your columns about memorials in churchyards (June 26, July 1, 3) could not be more timely or more important. One could argue that, in contemporary England, we get the memorials we deserve; and it certainly is unrealistic to expect, without education and effort, a higher standard of design in the churchyard and the cemetery than in other aspects of life.

In particular, it is idle to blame the "regulations". So far as consecrated Anglican churchyards are concerned, the ultimate arbiter as to what is or is not allowable belongs to the diocesan chancellor, advised by his diocesan advisory committee for the care of churches. The "regulations", for which "guidelines" would be a better word, indicate what an incumbent may allow at his own discretion without recourse to the chancellor and it is inadvisable for him to go beyond these limits.

It is often forgotten by those who seek to erect memorials (and I have been in this position myself) that while it may be for them a private act, carried out at a particularly vulnerable moment, it is carried out in a prominently public place and it is only reasonable that a churchyard memorial should seek to respect the *genius loci*. This means congruent materials (and where in England is polished granite a congruent material?), good design and fine craftsmanship.

England is teeming with artistic talent and, in particular, with good letter cutters and well trained sculptors. It is a tragedy that incumbents and others do not take

more trouble to inform the bereaved about what is possible.

In addition, people often take decisions about memorials too early in the process of grieving. A simple guideline would be for memorials not to be allowed, other than in exceptional cases, until a year has elapsed from the time of burial.

The Crafts Council and the Council for the Care of Churches maintain registers of artists and craftsmen and many diocesan advisory committees maintain their own lists of people who can carry out first-rate work. Many of them may be members of the National Association of Master Masons, who are themselves trying to raise standards.

There is one more problem and it is becoming one of heroic proportions. All over England there are minor masterpieces of the craftsman's art, of the 17th, 18th and 19th century, in churchyards falling into irreversible decay when the expenditure of quite modest sums of money would prolong their life for the foreseeable future.

At Painswick in Gloucestershire, described by Alex. Clifford as "the most beautiful churchyard in England", they have appointed a guardian of the monuments and are developing a positive policy of care and conservation. This needs urgent consideration in countless other parishes, or it will be too late to save an important and representative aspect of our national artistic heritage.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BURMAN, Secretary,
The Council for the Care of Churches,
83 London Wall, EC2.
July 2.

Cricket decline

From Dr H. C. Tomlinson

Sir, Perhaps schools cricket is in greater danger than even Messrs Green (June 24) and Kirch (June 28) realise.

Proposals for altering present term dates for senior schools in the independent sector have just been drafted to allow for the rescheduling of GCSE and A-level examinations in 1988, when they will be a common timetable for all white boards and June will become the exam month.

This will inevitably result in a reduction in both the number of schools fixtures played in that month (about half of this school's external matches, for example, occur in June) and the number of boys free for inter-schools cricket. The time available for internal

cricket practices, moreover, will also inevitably be curtailed.

Further, the restructuring of the summer term, which from 1988 will begin in mid (rather than late) April and end in late June (rather than mid-July), and the increased likelihood of A-level candidates leaving school early, immediately their exams have finished, will mean that July will be lost for schools cricket. That will leave less than six weeks in April and May, and if recent summers are anything to go by, in practice about 10 fine days for cricket in those weeks.

May I make a plea for schools cricket to be played in September and early October?

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD TOMLINSON,
Upsett,
Wellington College,
Crowthorne, Berkshire.

S Africa crisis

From Mr J. M. Bruce Lockhart

Sir, In all the current talk about South Africa there are some important factors that are hardly ever mentioned, perhaps because they are uncomfortable. Here are five of them:

1. The record of most independent black governments in Africa is one of corruption, inefficiency and violence. Not a single democracy has survived. Is there any reason to think a black South African government would be any different?
2. No Commonwealth country would lift a finger to help Britain if it were not in its own interests. Britain should similarly ignore any political pressure from the Commonwealth. Should this result in the break-up of the Commonwealth, no one should weep. It might well lead to a healthier relationship between Britain and the individual members of the Commonwealth. This is central to the debate on sanctions on South Africa. It is rarely debated.

The brain drain

From Mr A.M. Davies

Sir, According to your correspondent, Professor James Manor (June 21), with his exciting stories of brilliant scholars poached by American administrators, "the British Government must increase its support of the universities". That, Sir, is not what is required. What is required is that British universities should regain their independence and self-respect.

There are many ways in which universities could do much more to help themselves: by raising funds from former members, from charities and from business; by encouraging employers to sponsor students; and by gradually moving towards charging more or less economic fees for most students.

With increased wealth universities would be able to offer scholarships to a certain number of students, while others would be able to look for support not only to central and local government (which would doubtless be willing to continue some funding at a modest level) but also to parents, potential employers and the banks.

Judges and politics

From Mr John Kentleton

Sir, Norman Podhoretz's distinction between judicial activism (or judicial usurpation when he particularly dislikes it) and judicial respect for the Constitution under the periphrastic heading "When judges seize the law" (July 1) begs the question: namely, should the Supreme Court interpret the letter of the spirit of the Constitution? And since it cannot interpret in a vacuum, it must have regard for time, place and, indeed, occasion.

The assumption that the Constitution has an inviolate and literal integrity was surely laid to rest, if it was ever believed, by Justice John Marshall Harlan's

A limited amount of prudent borrowing would surely seem to many students a good investment. It is absurd that — as happens now — the State should decide how many people are to have the benefits of higher education, if those who want them are willing to pay for them.

Independence for the universities would also transform the situation for academic salaries. Universities would be able — and indeed obliged — to pay whatever salaries would be needed (likely to be much higher than at present) and new colleges would be established to meet the demand for some subjects and courses. The balance between teaching and research would be clarified.

The universities have only themselves to blame if they are now being bound hand and foot by the State because they are afraid to take responsibility for themselves.

Yours etc.,
A.M. DAVIES,
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College,
Egham Hill,
Egham,
Surrey.
June 21.

candid admission that "if we don't like an act of Congress we don't have much trouble to find grounds for declaring it unconstitutional."

Antonin Scalia's nomination is to be welcomed inasmuch as it reflects a period when conservatism is in the ascendant, as previous appointments reflected other viewpoints. The mixture of talents, ideologies and generations provides that creative tension which ensures that the court will be what it has always been, a varied collection of political judges.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KENTLETON,
The University of Liverpool,
Department of History,
8 Abercromby Square,
PO Box 147, Liverpool.

ON THIS DAY

JULY 5 1924

Did George Mallory and Andrew Irvine reach the summit of Everest in 1924? Over 60 years later the question is still raised, still remains unanswered, and indeed, is probably unanswerable. Noel Odell, the expedition's geologist, relates the dramatic story of the last sighting of the two men. Space does not permit the account of his tremendous feat, during which for two hours he searched for his companions, and in which, without oxygen, he climbed to 27,500 ft. Professor Odell, now in his 86th year, lives in Cambridge.

EVEREST 1924

THE LAST CLIMB.

MR. ODELL'S STORY.

Mr. Odell's story of the final attempt on Everest — and victory? — is as follows:

On June 8, following an early breakfast of fried tomatoes, joyfully acclaimed and moderately partaken of, Mallory and Irvine left the North Col Camp for Camp V (25,000ft.), accompanied by five porters, with provisions and a reserve oxygen cylinder. Using oxygen, they had already ascended from Camp III, 2,000ft. below, in 10 hours. They were highly pleased with their performance, which seemed to augur well for the final attempt on the mountain.

The next day they ascended to Camp VI (27,000ft.), which had been established by Norton and Somervell in a record climb three days previously. The same day I ascended to the supporting Camp No. V.

At early morning of June 8 it was clear and not cloudy cold at such an altitude. The two porters I had brought with me to Camp V complained of sickness and headache, and altogether I was not unthankful for an excuse to send them down to Camp IV, at the North Col. For I especially wished to be free during an ascent I was to make for as wide a geological survey of the mountain face between Camps V and VI as possible. Soon after I had started on my last climb of cloud began to form, which periodically immersed me in gloom, but the wind remained quite light for such an exposed ridge. Now and then there would be an accompaniment of sleet and light snow. I could see above me frequently during these squalls that there was a glow of light, indicating clearness at higher altitudes, and hoped that Mallory and Irvine were above the mist.

At 12.50, just after I had suggested in a state of exhilaration finding the East definite fossils on Everest, there was a sudden clearing of the atmosphere, and the entire summit, ridge, and final peak of Everest were unveiled. My eyes became fixed on one tiny black spot silhouetted on a small snowcrest beneath a rock-step in the ridge, and the black spot moved. Another black spot became apparent and moved up the snow to join the other on the crest. The first then approached the great rock-step and shortly afterwards the top of the mountain was reached. Then a whole fascinating vision vanished, enveloped in cloud once more.

There was but one explanation. It was Mallory and his companion moving, as I could see even at that great distance, with considerable alacrity, realising, doubtless, that they had now too many hours of daylight to reach the summit from their present position and return to Camp VI at nightfall. The place on the ridge mentioned is a prominent rock-step at a very short distance from the base of the final pyramid, and it was remarkable that they were so late in reaching this place. According to Mallory's schedule they should have reached it several hours earlier if they had started from the high camp as anticipated. That they had encountered bad conditions and snow-covered rocks and other obstacles was likely. However, in my opinion, from the position in which they were last seen, they should have reached the summit at 4 p.m. at latest, unless some unforeseen and particularly difficult obstacle presented itself on the final pyramid. This seemed to be very unlikely, for we had scrutinized the last slopes with telescopes and binoculars and had seen that technically the climbing was easy. The two men were most likely explanations of their failure to return were a fall or inability to reach camp before darkness set in. I rather incline to the latter view and consider it very probable that they sheltered in some rock recess and fell asleep, and a peaceful death, followed, due to the excessive cold at those altitudes.

Has Everest been climbed? Colonel Norton has referred to this question. It will ever be a mystery. Considering all the circumstances and the position they had reached on the mountain, I personally am of opinion that Mallory and Irvine must have reached the summit.

Yours etc.,
A.M. DAVIES,
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College,
Egham Hill,
Egham,
Surrey.
June 21.

Yours etc.,
A.M. DAVIES,
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College,
Egham Hill,
Egham,
Surrey.
June 21.

Open to view

From Mr Roger Musgrave

Sir, The keeper of a souvenir she in Pisa was even more acute than the continental boatman, we could see Mr George Ball-Englishness "written all over him" (July 2).

Wearing an Italian suit and sunglasses, a Swiss shirt, French tie and tanned from the Versilia, I pushed through the cosmopolitan crowd and, without saying a word, presented my choice of postcards.

Instantly he responded: "S hundred lire, please." Yours very truly,
ROGER MUSGRAVE,
208 Somerset Road, SW19,
July 2.

COLD WET FEET?

Water privatization was on in March. It was forcefully promised in April. Mr Watts of Thames Water was rarely away from the news in May. Come June the bill embodying the privatization plan was confidently predicted for the autumn. As recently as last week, Ministers were on their feet in the Commons re-stating the timetable.

On Thursday afternoon — not exactly a publicist's procedure — there was, a written answer. All the briefing, all the statements, all the ministerial confidence were blown. No explanation was given.

Hours later, Mr Nicholas Ridley was dragged to the House of Commons by Opposition pressure. There, with an aristocratic hauteur that might have served in another age but today appears petulant, Mr Ridley did nothing to answer the string of questions his announcement gave rise to. These were questions, no less about the future of water supply than about the commitment of the Government to its chosen programme and — dark thought — its day-to-day competence.

The water announcement was at best, inept. At worst it was another, unwelcome demonstration of the hermetic nature of Cabinet discussions under Mrs Thatcher. Cabinet, apparently, disposes of the water issue on Thursday morning. Who then has the political nous to wonder how the announcement is to be made, so as to reassure tap-turners as well as back-benchers? There seems to be at the very heart of the Cabinet an incapacity to make allowances for public mood.

It could be that water privatization has been postponed for the ignominious but

perfectly legitimate reason that the Prime Minister wants a clear field for an early general election. As a result she wants neither a heavy and important bill mid-way through its passage at the moment an election is to be called, nor damaging party bickering over an issue that is neither urgent nor popular with a large number of voters. So be it.

A cleverer government might have made a virtue of expedience. It might planted the idea that the beaches of Blackpool were a prime concern and that because the government cares deeply for the people's bathing rights, more time needs to be addressed to the delicate question of who controls effluent disposal. By such means the government could have at the least have levered the news of postponement more gently into the public arena.

Of course Blackpool beaches do matter, as does the quality of English and Welsh drinking water (Scottish water is to remain public) when its supply is made a matter of private profit. The way in which environmental protection has been treated in the privatization plan would have demanded the most careful legislative inspection when the bill came to Parliament.

Postponement of privatization must be welcomed to the extent that fresh thought will be given to divorcing the function of water supply and effluent removal from the prosecutorial responsibilities now exercised by the water authorities in safeguarding the environment. The idea that a private firm can or should be entrusted with legal powers of enforcement over other firms has, always been one of the

most suspect elements in the water package.

But none of this is new. The complexities of water regulation and asset title have been apparent for a long time. The Trustee Savings Bank saga should surely have alerted one and all to the vigilance of the courts. They, not unreasonably, dislike anticipation by public bodies of statutory change. Mr Baker must have told his colleagues of potential problems before he was allowed so blithely to commit the government to a legislative timetable.

To lose the timetable for the privatization of British Airways (another announcement by Mr Ridley) was misfortune. To shelve the sale of British Leyland was misjudgement. Now water is added to the list of promised privatizations that will not occur in the immediate political future. It starts to look not just that the sale of these assets has been bungled, but that the government, having first overtaken the whole enterprise, gets cold feet as soon as difficulties arise.

Perhaps on water the Government has allowed itself to be bounced by the loquacious Mr Watts, whose original motive was the perfectly proper one of resenting the fiscal regime imposed on his managers by the Treasury. Mr Watts might now politely — he is after all a public servant — be asked to maintain a period of silence. Meanwhile, questions of water management and investment will not go away. Mr Ridley should be put on his guard that important decisions, with long term consequences, should not be deferred because of uncertainty about water's future which he has had a hand in creating.

THE PAST BEHIND US

The calm, bordering on lack of interest, which has greeted the first state visit to Britain by a post-war German President, is perhaps the highest compliment that can be paid to the current climate of Anglo-German relations. It symbolizes that the friction and outright hostility which have bedeviled relations between our two countries for much of the past century have been laid to rest; dare one hope, for good.

It was entirely appropriate that the reconciliation should have been sealed by Richard von Weizsäcker. When mayor of West Berlin, he distinguished himself as a custodian of the delicate balance between the interests of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the West as a whole — in effect of post-war realities. Moreover, at 66, President von Weizsäcker represents a middle generation of Germans: those who were not implicated in the rise of Nazism and the origins of the war, but were nonetheless scarred by it.

This is why the references to Germany's past in President von Weizsäcker's address to Parliament this week were so well-chosen. Here was a conclusive demonstration — not the first, but surely the most gracious and dignified —

that the experience of Nazism and the war had been absorbed and so purged by today's West Germans.

That the West German President could accept responsibility in the name of his nation for some of the most terrible chapters of recent history and that he chose to speak of it as a lesson for the future rather than pass over it in silence deserves respect. That acceptance is the only realistic foundation for the Anglo-German relationship.

Today, our two countries have as much in common as they have ever had. We both have elected governments of a conservative complexion, a commitment to Europe and to a close strategic relationship with the United States. We are in many respects natural partners, not least within Europe.

Here, the expansion of the Community means that Britain and Germany will increasingly find themselves representing the concerns of the north European industrialized countries against those of the agricultural south. In particular, we have a mutual interest in ensuring that the already overgenerous subsidies under the Common Agriculture Policy are not underwritten indefinitely.

FOURTH LEADER

Strange news from Thailand; an iron ore refinery has been burned down, nem. con. by an immense throng of demonstrators. In itself, that is hardly surprising. Foreigners burn down all sorts of things these days, and count not the cost of matches. It was the reason given by the Thai crowd for the rather exceptional warmth of their feelings that, in Bertie Wooster's words, made the old head swim a bit. They said that the presence of the refinery would be bad for the tourist trade.

Now if there is one thing that we thought we had finally got straight, it is that the peoples of Africa and the East, of South America and the remotest parts of Scandinavia, resent our brash presence. They are supposed to be indignant at the thought of their way of life being buried beneath an avalanche of Entertainerism and Diners Club cards, and no less unhappy at the need to remember whether it is the Americans who like beer water and the British warm beer, or the other way round. (It is not the other way round.)

Yet it seems that, so far from resenting the visitors, the visited are delighted in fact, that at the mere suspicion that an iron ore refinery might not

have the cameras clicking, the offending plant is put to the torch.

Whatever, next? Obviously, such vigorous measures are not for us. But there are plenty of other ways in which we can demonstrate our own eagerness to please the tourists, if only by living up to their expectations. A few suggestions may be in order.

A competition to design a British national dress (smocks, perhaps accompanied by clay pipes) might be followed by legislation making the wearing of it compulsory. Instead of most of our trains being late, we could ensure that they all were better still, let them be replaced by a network of stage coaches. (And talking of stages, it is well known that from some spots the National Theatre obstructs the view of Big Ben. Is there a use for recycled concrete?)

Aberdeen is a problem: tourists in Scotland expect to find the natives tucking in to steaming plates of their traditional sporan, with their equally traditional weapon, the baggis sticking out of their socks; the oil installations are incompatible with this picture, and will have to go. So will Heathrow, fourth terminal and all. The noise of the planes makes it impossible for visitors to be heard asking for directions to Windsor Castle.

Next, a site for the National Maypole must be found. Oxford Circus will do nicely, once the shops have been cleared out of the way. And the demolition will have to go much further up the street. It is all very well telling tourists at Marble Arch that this is where Tyburn stood, but what they want to see is a row of gibbets, preferably occupied.

Then again, what is the point of having a Prime Minister called Thatcher if all the roofs are covered with slate? A coating of fuzz would do wonders for the slag heaps of the north, to say nothing of the Free Trade Hall in Manchester. And a crash programme to equip and train a hundred thousand extra Beefeaters and the same number of Chelsea Pensioners would brighten up our streets no end.

Thailand has shown the way: the tourists' word is law. We must not burn down refineries, but if our visitors want to see picturesque football hooligans being sick on the pavement, it must be arranged, and if Cowley detracts from the beauty of Oxford's dreaming spires, it must be removed (or vice-versa, of course). We even have a slogan for the new dispensation: "A milk maid on every corner, and a Kentucky Fried Chicken in every pot."

THE ARTS

Television

"Touch confirms the reality of our world", intoned Denis Quilley with resonant seriousness during the narration of *The Healing Arts* (BBC2). Last night's documentary, the first of nine, gave us healing hands: pressing, stroking, massaging, poking, yanking or pummeling or just laying on a body to make the hurt go away.

No doubt such practices have done much good to many. Certainly, they have done much less harm than some of the more inopportune interventions of established medicine. Unfortunately, the programme only confirmed the view that, whatever those with the healing touch come to grips with, it is not always the reality of our world.

The limits of television were partly to blame. What flickers across the small screen passes muster for reality for most of us, except of course when we want to smell the world or touch it. The conventional medical mits of *Your Life in Their Hands* can be seen to be doing some good as they slit open their patients. All you saw with last night's hands was a lot of pressing, stroking and so on, which at best is comical or titillating, and at worst, boring. There was little enough titillation provided by last night's pliant flesh but some comedy, particularly when the portly figure of the famed Irish farmer bonesetter, Danny O'Neill, was seen struggling to put his patients back into shape.

Deprived of the means to make us feel the benefits of their art, the healers were forced to describe them. They found manipulating words, however, more difficult than bodies. There was much babble about energy fields and eco systems which the commentary failed to unravel. Even the massaging gentlemen's barber sounded like a Californian guru. A cranial osteopath, not content with a colleague's explanation about their hands and the patient's bodies "just getting on with it", launched into a mind-boggling analysis. A faith healer, however, was more modest: "It's ever so difficult to explain what happens." Unlike another magical layer on of hands, Diego Maradona, didn't he even talk of a divine touch helping him to achieve his goal.

Andrew Hislop



Master and mistress of farce: Gabriella Drake and Michael Dennison

Rock

Snappy girls dressed to kill

The Bangles

Town & Country Club

The Bangles' first hit single was topping the charts before most people had time to realize that they are four attractive girls whose willingness to dress up and pose for the camera makes them ideal dream-fodder for the Madonna generation — an audience more interested in where its pop stars shop for clothes than in their views on American foreign policy.

So irresistible that it would have been a hit in the hands of four singing Cabinet ministers, "Manic Monday" was followed by *Different Light*, an album crammed with jangling guitars, snappy tunes and delicious California voices, bringing modern production techniques to bear on structures and textures echoing

back to the Byrds, the Beatles and — in the wide, sunny harmonies — the Mamas and the Papas.

After watching their performance in Kentish Town on Thursday night, though, it seemed pertinent to wonder how much of the Bangles' success is due to the shrewdness of their record producer, David Kahne. Their heavy-handed and literal-minded performance, strong on the kind of head-tossing poses long favoured by the duller sort of male rock musician, hardly confirmed the qualities of sensitivity and imagination shown in the original selection and arrangement of such fine songs as "Manic Monday" (written by Prince), Kimberley Rew's thoughtful "Going Down to Liverpool", Jules Shear's poignant "If She Knew What She Wants" and Liam Sternberg's wacky "Walk Like an Egyptian".

Susanna Hoff, whose dark

eyes, dangerous pout and fancifully sexy costumes match her sultry voice in the kind of formula that once made Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks so potent, is an equally obvious candidate for a successful solo career one day. On this occasion I preferred Michael Steele's less coquettish delivery of Alex Chilton's "September Gurls", and the way the enthusiasm of the sisters Vicki and Debbie Peterson, lead guitarist and drummer respectively, drove the group's exuberantly noisy version of Arthur Lee's "7 and 7 Is".

Richard Williams

Court in the Act

Royal Interchange Manchester

From Pinero to Brighouse, the Royal Exchange Company have made several successful gambles on long-forgotten farces, and in this — their second — flutter on the Parisian duo of Hennequin and Veber — they have again struck lucky.

The authors, contemporaries and some time collaborators with Feydeau, have all the classic Right Bank equipment: absolute confidence in social stereotypes, and the ability to extract endless running gags from the minimum of material, like streamers pouring from a conjuror's sleeve. They also have the nerve to bend some boulevard rules without any loss in comic energy.

As thumped home in *Braham Murray* and Robert Cogo-Franc's title, *Court in the Act* (Alia La Presidente) unveils hypocrisy in the legal profession: employing the well-worn device of a lusciously available opera star who camps out in the house of a provincial magistrate, Tricointe, and proceeds to ensnare every member of the bench who crosses her path.

I'm Not Rappaport

Apollon

Big cities exacerbate the everyday tribulations of the aged: the pace and noise and violence of other people's lives remind them all too nearly that they are approaching the end of their own.

In self-defence they make for the open spaces where, inevitably, they fall in with other displaced persons of a similar age and, inadvertently, provide material for the park bench school of playwrighting.

The American dramatist Herb Gardner has set his folksy urban comedy in New York's Central Park. The two old codgers whose discourse are invited to witness are Nat (Paul Scofield, disguised by a barrel, a gaiter and wire-frame spectacles and equipped with a walking stick) and Midge (Howard Rollins, in

It goes without saying that each of these pillars of the community is quaking in their elasticated boots at the danger of professional ruin: and that the Minister of Justice, who arrives in the course of pursuing a moral purge of the magistrature, is the first to be gobbled up by La Gobelette.

So the farce's natural elements, the authors craftily add some artificial extras — notably burdening Tricointe with a daughter who only speaks English, and an ex-housemaid wife with an obsession for brass polishing. In due course, these seeds sprout on the grand scale, turning brass polishing into a refined sexual perversion, and stranding the daughter and her lover between a beefy bilingual cop who throws himself into the task of translating the protest of an outraged virgin.

True to the Paris style, the comedy nowhere depends on embarrassment. There is panic, frustration and a sprightly chagrin. But anyone who finds himself in a compromising position is a cue for him to attack. Gobelette and Tricointe may be caught in the bedroom by the minister, but instead of cowering in cupboards (the British tactic) Gobelette sails on in the role of the wife and proceeds to play the high

thrill-store clothing, impenetrably opaque spectacles and soft cap).

Midge is the janitor of a nearby apartment block, whose long service is jeopardized by enfeebled eyesight. Nat is simply anyone he chooses to be at the time — a Cuban spy, for instance, or a "Dr Engle".

Nat's idea of amusement consists of creating minor havoc through his random impostures. Even his married daughter, who has betrayed her socialist upbringing by adopting the "colour-sup" life in Great Neck, falls for his nonsense. He is, in other words, that character so beloved of American mainstream comedy, the naughty old prankster.

The only credible constant in Nat's character seems to be his conviction, unshaken after more than half a century, that American society is rotten to the core — and no more so than in the Big Apple.

Theatre

Fine gaggle of gags

bourgeois-hostess far more effectively than the legitimate brass-polishing absentee.

A modern writer might have treated this as a superb pretext for class revenge. That does not happen here. Gobelette acts her part while knowing her place: but, unlike the run of farcical temptresses, she also consummates her attachments, thus forcing the plot of the dreary impasse of sexual taboo.

Opening in a brass-crammed living room and ending in a white art nouveau hotel, Stephen Doncaster's design at once reflects the play's comic excess and its thoroughbred precision. For most of the way Mr Murray's production likewise combines attack and poise. Michael Denison's Tricointe is too ready to play the victim: this stern moral guardian should not so obviously start out on the receiving end. Otherwise, Lee Montague, as the minister, runs a fine gamut from only high status rhetoric to means of inarticulate derangement; and Gabrielle Drake's Gobelette is a commanding odalisque, voluptuous as a canned apricot, and never more armoured down to her corset.

Irving Wardle

Accordingly, he is willing to use his theatrical talents in the service of others. When the jogging yuppie who is head of the tenants' committee in Midge's block arrives to spell out the janitor's forthcoming enforced retirement, Nat poses as the latter's lawyer and threatens the former with the full panoply of unionized wrath.

Against the menace of a knife-wielding young thug whose business it is to walk old people home in return for a consideration, he has, however, no answer.

Daniel Sullivan's production elicits a finely honed double-act from the two principals, with Mr Scofield's tremulous slyness well complemented by Mr Rollins's bridling dignity. But the minor characters have been bought in from stock and one can see most of the jokes coming a furlong off.

Martin Cropper

Dance

Sensitive concept

Giselle

Coliseum

Why is it, I ask myself, that I enjoyed the performance of *Giselle* by Dance Theatre of Harlem last night better than any of those I have seen from the Royal Ballet this season?

The explanation lies not only in the added interest which the Harlem production incurs by transporting the ballet's action to a new setting, the Bayou country of nineteenth-century Louisiana, forcing us to consider plot and characters more closely.

The production's intrinsic quality derives from the fact that it has a clear underlying concept. That was true also of Peter Wright's reading when he first staged it at Stuttgart and Covent Garden: two decades ago, but frequent minor changes seem to have eroded that once clear view.

The Harlem treatment, on the other hand, imagined by Arthur Mitchell many years ago and developed by him in association with the designer Carl Mitchell, has held firmly to the vision of particular characters in a particular context.

They are aided by sensitive staging of the traditional choreography by Frederic Franklin, an Englishman whose knowledge of tradition has been thoroughly neglected by English companies. Although the unattributed orchestration of Adam's score is flamboyant, it is at least colourfully theatrical.

To these virtues are added two beautiful performances in the leading roles: Virginia Johnson and Eddie Shelman act Giselle and Albin with absolute conviction, and a complete rapport of spirit, lighting up the ballet by the radiance of her dancing and the soft buoyancy of his.

Nobody would suggest that the rest of the Harlem cast are, in any absolute sense, better dancers than those of the Royal Ballet (although one or two, notably Joseph Cipolla, hold their own) but they dance as if they all care about their performances much more than one usually sees at Covent Garden.

John Percival

Gallery

A bit of naughty fun

The Forbidden Library

Hobart and Maclean

Last year, the final show in Jamie Maclean's gallery at 35 St George's Street before it passed into other hands was *Forbidden Images*, a first respectable gallery exploration in this country of the riches, artistic and otherwise, of the intriguing half-world of "under-the-counter". Despite (and no doubt partly because of) the discreet window-display and the notices warning that those who ventured within might be offended, the show was a great success, and contained a surprising amount of real art as well as a lot of good, not-too-clean fun.

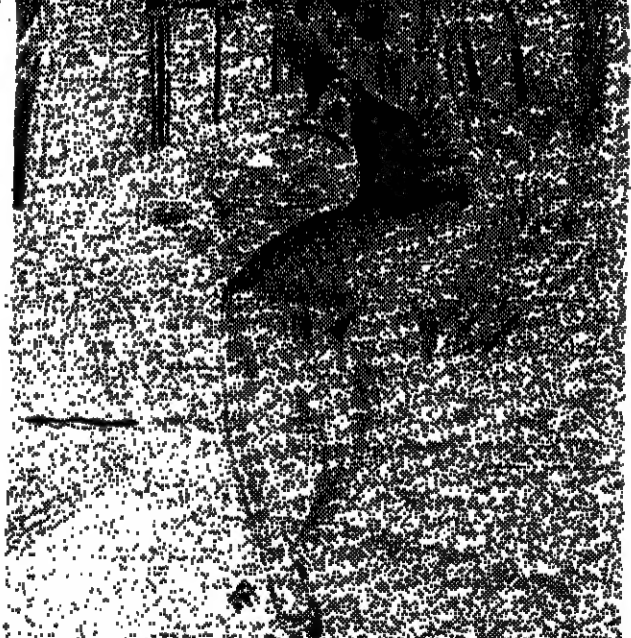
This year the same dealer, in partnership with Timothy Hobart, is back in the same premises, now the showrooms of Peter Biddulph, the dealer in historic musical instruments, with a follow-up show, *The Forbidden Library*, until July 18.

This time the emphasis is on book illustration. There are other things too: detached prints not precisely related to any literary or para-literary text, the odd drawing like Mucha's for a Sarah Bernhardt poster (or odder) some bold excursions by Cocteau and Bérard into the male

brothels of Paris and Marseilles, and some jolly and fancifully acrobatic lithographs from the famous series after the Beidermeier court artist Peter Fecht.

Other works will be familiar to those *au fait* with scholarly American facsimiles, which include in recent years the erotic sketchbook of the Hungarian Mihály von Zichy and the bitterly satirical etchings of the Belgian Martin van Maele. Not to mention, in a more popular format, the numerous "amorous illustrations" of the Marquis von Bayros, working often under the pseudonym of Choisy le Conin, but quite unable thereby to disguise his unique virtuosity with pen and ink, almost a match for his contemporary Beardsley, who here turns up with his long-banned illustration for *Lysistrata*.

But all these are non-French, and it is in the Parisian published that the main body of the exhibition is to be found. From the 18th century on, the French seem to have bent on producing books which will uphold their highly profitable reputation for sexual sophistication. Not all the series of illustrations drawn upon can be qualified as high art, but it is amazing how consistently we find great technical competence and gleefully extrovert invention



From Jdyle printmakers (1933) by Rojan

which should certainly take the curse of moral disapprobation off all but a very few. The mark of pornography, surely, is that it lacks imagination and relies entirely on pushing the same old buttons in the spectator's libido to get the same old stock responses. It is certainly not meant to look like *fin de siècle*. A lot in this exhibition, does look very much like *fin de siècle*, and is quite innocently infectious. And it introduces us to some real

John Russell Taylor

Radio

Silver clouds and leaden linings

Outpatient, Rhys Adrian's sharp and delightful little satire on one face of the NHS, was first heard in 1985 on Radio 3. Last Wednesday, in John Tydemann's production, it was given a Radio 4 repeat, the first of six plays, winners of the Giles Cooper Awards for 1985, which will be heard again over the next few weeks.

The awards themselves were presented by Harold Pinter at an informal ceremony two weeks ago. Pinter recalled that soon after the ignominious failure of the first production of *The Birthday Party*, when it must have seemed to him that his career had begun and ended in a week, there arrived in the post an invitation from the BBC radio drama department to write a play for them. "The depth of their encouragement," said Mr Pinter, "was immeasurable." I suspect it still is for many playwrights whom we may yet live to celebrate.

But there is no need to look to repeats alone. For only last week radio reminded us of its

virtues with something shining and new-minded. *The Field of the Stars* (Radio 4,) was a feature compiled by one of its own most talented drama producers, Shaun MacLoughlin, which followed him and his 12-year-old son, Seamus, as they cycled all the way along the medieval pilgrimage route that runs from Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy to Santiago de Compostela in the north-west of Spain. Day after day, over some five weeks, they rode, staying the night at hostels or monasteries that still line the route and often expect to lodge pilgrims free of charge.

Seamus witnessed the catching of a large carp and became obsessed with the idea of possessing a fishing rod; they were pursued by a hostile albatross which father fended off with a spray of pepper. (By what amazing foresight did he have that?) and in a moment of leisure Seamus took the opportunity to teach his dad "a bit about BMWs".

All this and much more had been recorded in their diaries

from which both father and son read extracts. Very colourful they were, but more important and impossible to convey in isolated quotes, they transmitted the impression of a mighty journey made resonant by being set within the context of innumerable other journeys along the same route.

Common to all times and people was the sheer elation that seized them as they breasted the last rise and there was Compostela spread before them. It was a measure of this programme's magic that the listener shared in that elation too.

For every silver cloud a leaden lining. And last week's arrived in the shape of *Tunnel Vision* (Radio 4, Sunday). The first broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster, Liz Barron's documentary was an account of attitudes in the Northern Irish town of Portadown where 20 per cent of Catholics, who used to live in relative amity with 80 per cent of Protestants, are now enclosed within one section of the place and do

not dare to venture into its main street.

Let me say that this was from one point of view an exceedingly well made and compelling programme: Ms Barron had persuaded her interviewees to declare themselves with chilling candour. The main point at issue was whether this summer's Protestant marches would be able to go down a street known as "The Tunnel", which runs along the Catholic enclave. The police say no; the Protestants say they always have and always will; and if the Catholics regard it as a provocation, too bad.

What is gained by yet another rehearsal of the lethal bigotries of the province at their most intense and unrelenting. We have heard it all over and over in one form or another and by now it only serves to reinforce the impression that we are dealing with people of ill intents and purposes — irrational about whom there is, nothing to be done.

David Wade

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July 5 - 11, 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to
leisure, entertainment
and the arts

A HOME BASE AT THE CREASE

There was a time when cricket seemed so much gentler, when P.B.H. May stood for conjured centuries as a peerless batsman, not juggled controversies as the chairman of selectors. It was also a time for Frederic Raphael to be saved from baseball and turned into an English gentleman. It very nearly worked.

Some books make us laugh so much that they should never be looked at again. Of these, for me, a prime example is Archie MacDonnell's *England Their England*. What is *Three Men in a Boat* by comparison? A tract? MacDonnell's cricket sketch is infinitely funnier than Dickens's in *The Pickwick Papers*, but since there is little so unforgivable, in a literary sense, as telling other people's jokes in synopsis form, I shall limit myself to recalling how, after Mr. Shakespeare, Pollock had made mighty contact with the bowling of the belted and braced blacksmith, he promptly dropped his bat and hared off to square leg.

This hilarious aberration was due, of course, to Mr. Pollock's imagining that cricket and baseball were of the same family, and that his business, once a meeting had been achieved between bat and ball, was to leg it round the "diamond" (somehow square-cut on this occasion before a fielder shied it at his midriff). Did he, after acculturation, prove finally adaptable to the English game or was he cruelly humiliated by his misbegotten origins? MacDonnell's humour, being humane, I shall continue to believe that Mr. Pollock became a competent, perhaps even capped, convert to an improbable game and came at last to play a straight bat with the best, or better, of them.

I must confess to a certain kinship with Mr. Pollock, since I was born within sound, if not sight, of Wrigley Field in Chicago, where the Cubs played and where the local newspaper was as rabidly anti-British as its proprietor, Colonel McCormack, could arrange for it to be. Big Bill Thompson, the mayor of my native city, when threatened with a visit by George V, declared that he would give His Majesty a sock in the nose,

though I think that the royal progress passed off without any such bloody incident.

My father was British, despite his seersucker suits and his devotion to American dance music, and he maintained an undiluted affection for cricket, even when he went to live under the shadow of Yankee Stadium, in New York. By a fluke of business politics, we had to return to London just before the war, by which time I was an unmistakable American kid, convinced that nothing in my father's country was either as big or as good as what we had in the good old US of A. My folk heroes were Babe Ruth and Jack Dempsey, a neighbour of ours on Central Park West. I would have you know, England was without names to conjure with.

In 1939, my conversion from seven-year-old Yank to eight-year-old Englishman seemed unsurprisingly swift. In retrospect, I am astonished, and even a little ashamed, at the speed of it: what kind of a leopard can change its spots so fast?

The war probably put the pressure on: patriotism has small patience with half-measures and who can be more

pressingly patriotic than mid die-class schoolboys? If my accent conformed almost instantly, I took longer to accustom myself to the local sports. I can still recall the bewildering oddness of the cricket gear disintegrated from its winter quarters in the early summer of 1940.

The huge fields of my prep school were prepared for action by a tractor hauling rotating blades which appeared wider than a main road. Grass flew like green shrapnel and sweetened the Sussex air as the rumble of guns from across the Channel excited our innocent ears and made the square allotments tremble beneath our trowels as we dug for an unlikely victory. Mr. Crowe, who had the dark hair and small-eyed aspect of his corvine provenance, was deputed to teach us the elements of batting. As France tottered and fell (creating a feeling less of doom than of the happy prospect of a last-wicket stand), Mr. Crowe was impatient with me: I batted the wrong way round. *Sub specie aegernitatis* (something which seemed not too remote just then), it might seem a small matter whether a beardless boy's left hand grasped the bat above or below the right. Mr. Crowe, however, regarded left-handedness as akin to treason and he was in no mood to tolerate a fifth-columnist at such a juncture. Like John Donne in a more metaphorical context, I allowed prudent counsels to prevail and altered my stance. The success of the Germans made Sussex a dangerous place for batsmen of any persuasion. In this middle of my first season, if I may put it that way, when I was beginning to "pitch" without bending my elbow (and to fasten my pads without dislocating my shoulder) and when I had observed with fascination how Fatty Magaloon, the amiable Maths master, was transformed by copious white flannels and a Nomad's sweater into someone of elegance and, as he cut and swept with unburied flexibility, into a figure of almost balletic grace, the whole school was banished from its wide and level and vulnerable acres to the raw hills of North Devon.

My headmaster's sources in the War Office had informed him that the area of Ilfracombe would be remote from enemy incursions (we saw one Heinkel, hurrying home after firing Cardiff, and a single pronged mine which floated into the bay, causing us to rush inland, in our house shoes).

Lee Bay was garnished with a sandy beach and limpeted rocks from which to plunge or lurch into the icy Bristol Channel, but the steepness of the protective hills was such that only a narrow playing field was available to us, at the bottom of the V-shaped valley. A pair of bent football fields could be accommodated in it but cricket was out of the question, for the duration.

The hotel had tennis courts,

where we became green-footed through playing without our rationed gym shoes, but the great summer game had to be postponed. Because tennis and sand-castles lacked the team element so essential to a Britannic education, a number of alternatives made brief appearances on the sporting curriculum. We played girlish rounders on the narrow field and we tried a strange game with a wooden paddle and a sort of "wicket", for full tosses only, which consisted of a board attached to a pole.

The following autumn, I was sent to Charterhouse. My only link with it was that Fatty Magaloon had been a Nomad, which meant, more or less, that he had been in the fourth eleven. It seemed, and remains, an unattainable eminence. It had qualified him for a richly embroidered sweater (or "hasher" as I had to learn to call it) and made him the lowest form of "blood".

In the hope that I might emulate him, my father sent me to Alf Gover's indoor school during the Easter holidays. Some of the Surrey professionals used to hang out there, occasionally turning over their arms and rattling the stumps (set in a wooden block) of some cocksure pupil. I enjoyed their insiders' dialogue and envied their ability to smoke and bowl tweakers at the same time. After a few sessions with bat and ball, I looked forward to school cricket with some enthusiasm. Big Alf said that I ought to do well. I was given a new pair of boots, with impressive studs, and a Walter Hammond autographed bat. Ready when you are, W.G.

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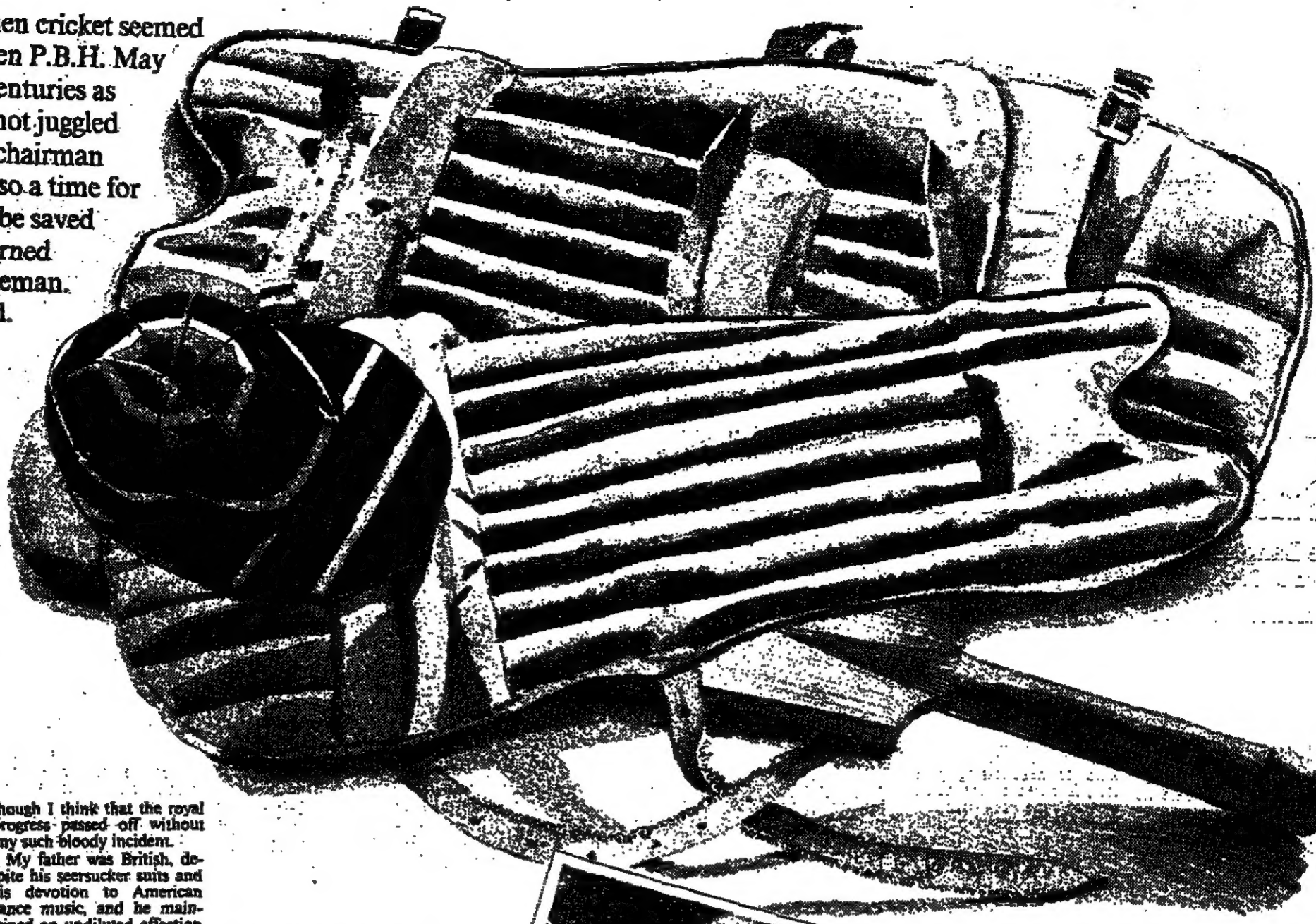


Illustration by Glynn Boyd Harris

Frankly, so long as I was in the side, I hardly cared. I was a good slip fielder and I became a reliable batsman of the most constipated rectitude.

My first hour came in a house match against Gownboys, who paraded a first-eleven, left-arm bowler called Holt. Berkeley, our house captain (we were not on first-name terms after four years of proximity), asked me to go in-number one, which he did not seem to regard as a privilege, more a form of sacrifice. Thinking of Robertson and Sailor Brown, who broke the fast men of other counties so that Edrich W.J. and Compton D.C.S. might then carve them to the four corners of Lord's, I elected to be flattered.

If I say so myself, I never played better. After an hour and a half, I was still there. After an hour and forty minutes, I had only just been dismissed. It is true that I had made only seventeen runs,

where we became green-footed through playing without our rationed gym shoes, but the great summer game had to be postponed. Because tennis and sand-castles lacked the team element so essential to a Britannic education, a number of alternatives made brief appearances on the sporting curriculum. We played girlish rounders on the narrow field and we tried a strange game with a wooden paddle and a sort of "wicket", for full tosses only, which consisted of a board attached to a pole.

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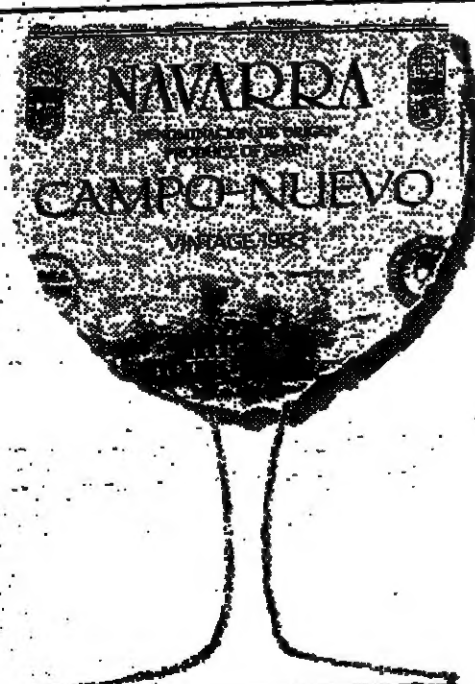
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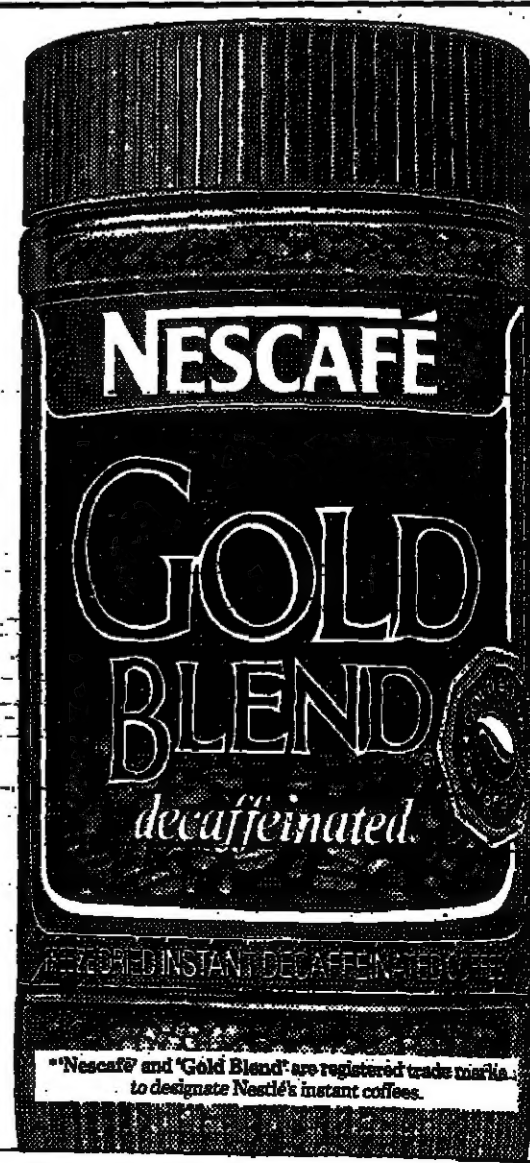
Mandarin men: How the co-writer and star of *Yes Minister* found their way to the National, page 14

From Quick Singles, edited by Christopher Martin-Jenkins and Mike Seabrook, to be published in October (J.M. Dent, £8.95).

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Imposing façade for family life

At Ragley Hall one of Europe's great rooms has been restored, thanks to the Marquess

A frolicsome breeze — somewhere between tornado and hurricane force — was making its way across the Ragley estate, as I toiled, nose to tarmac, up the seemingly endless drive. Plenty of sheep, quite a few trees, a banner advertising Remy Martin — something to do with the Ragley Horse Trials, no doubt — but where's the house?

Suddenly, like an architectural Jack-in-the-box, up it pops in all its glory over your right shoulder. Adjectivally, the choice lies somewhere between "imposing" and "intimidating". It is quite a facade. As you negotiate the elegant stairs and enter the portico, you might look up at those massive columns soaring over you and settle for the latter adjective. You certainly will after opening the door.

What you are immediately up against is the experience of 112,000 cubic feet of space or, to put it another way, "one of the great rooms of Europe". It is 70 feet long, 40 feet wide and 40 feet high, the work of James Gibbs and Giuseppe Agazzi, and it makes you feel very small. But it is prettily decorated with pink walls and exuberant white plasterwork everywhere — like a superior wedding cake. Overhead, a figure of Britannia is holding in one hand a long spear, which, the guidebook, saucily informs us, is "not otherwise attached to the ceiling". The fire in the grate is crackling like a fusillade of light artillery. A yellow can only stand so much of this...

Oddly enough, the rest of the house is far from intimidating — even several notches

stamped quite firmly on Ragley — not least in the extraordinary mural, *The Temptation*, commissioned by the Marquess and painted between 1969 and 1983 by Graham Rust. This huge work covers an entire staircase wall, culminating in a trompe-l'œil dome; members of the family peer down over tiers of (painted) colonnades.

An enormous Ceri Richards painting hangs on the other staircase. Called *The Defeat of the Spanish Armada*, it looks rather like a nasty accident involving two giant shuttlecocks. I suppose it demonstrates that if your walls are big enough, you can — usually — get away with anything.

Ragley has some of the prettiest ceilings you could hope to see. You could easily end your visit with a creak in the neck. It has an astonishing bed made specially for the Prince Regent, and one of the finest chimney pieces in captivity. (In the breakfast room). It even has — most unusually — a guidebook which is a good read in itself. Written by the Marquess it is pleasingly concise, welcoming in tone and highly individual.

We might have more flowers if we had fewer peacocks, he confides — and indeed there are plenty of these gorgeous fowls, sweating raucously at each other all over the grounds.

Nigel Andrew

Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire (0789 762455) is open Tues-Thurs, Sat and Sun, 1.30-5.30pm. Tues-Thurs in June, July, August, noon-5pm.



Taking steps: The Marquess of Hertford, who restored the family fortunes, on the south staircase with Homer

Full of charm...and sheep

Ragley Hall is only seven miles from Stratford-upon-Avon and 10 miles from Evesham. But the less well-known Alcester is much nearer. (Just over a mile), and is worth a visit. It's a small, unselfconscious old town with two main streets and some fine buildings. It calls itself "Alcester" or "Oister".

The church has a magnificent alabaster monument to Sir Fulk Greville and his wife and 15 children. It is an interesting building, half Gothic and half Classical, and all around it are ranges of handsome old houses — timber framed, brick and stone, side by side, all pleasingly irregular and lived-in. There is a town hall dating back to 1618, and the best of

many old houses is the Malt House on the corner of Malt Mill Lane. Being just off the tourist routes, Alcester has not been "improved", its charm is completely genuine.

Unfortunately it also offers little to the weary traveller but several town pubs, a wine bar (Miranda's) and the Tudor Rose Tea Rooms. For a full meal you might do best to visit the Arrow Mill restaurant, opposite the gates of Ragley in the village of Arrow. (The Ragley café does good salads.) The village is black and white, strictly residential, with a pretty church set back in the fields. Sheep probably outnumber human souls.

THE TIMES COOK

A renaissance for those salad days

Shona Crawford Poole cooks up cool first courses for light summer meals

Not many categories of food have changed as much for the better as salads. There are still un-reformed pubs and canteens serving pre-revolutionary lettuce decked out with club cut cucumber, tomato wedges, sliced eggs, spring onions and salad cream on the side. And coleslaw dressed to kill all tastes is still high in the ratings if the buckets of it sold in supermarkets are anything to judge by.

But as likely as not, alongside the tubs of chopped stuff drowned in acetic acid will be a range of raw greenery unadorned or even five years ago. Add the influences of our own travels and those of the chefs whose work features on our book shelves, if not on our cheque-book stubs, and the scale of the change becomes clearer.

The year-round availability of once rare ingredients like fennel, fennel and red members of the chicory tribe has helped as much as the widening of holiday horizons. Would we have believed that warm boiled potatoes and garlic mayonnaise are heavenly partnership if someone had not attended an *aili monstre* in the Var? Could we have credited the deliciousness of roasted red peppers with nothing more than salt and oil before tasting them on an Italian table?

Add a dash of inspiration from the tantalizingly perfect arrangements of dainty exoticism pictured in magazines, cookery books, and advertisements for country house hotels and it is clear why salads have become socially acceptable starters.

Miniature ears of maize the size of a child's finger are a

good addition to a selection of vegetables cooked à la grecque.

Baby corn and mushrooms à la grecque

Serves six to eight

225g (8 oz) firm button mushrooms

225g (8 oz) baby corn

225g (8 oz) onions, preferably small

6 cloves garlic, peeled

6 tablespoons good olive oil

300ml (½ pint) white wine

Juice of 1 lemon

Salt

1 teaspoon whole coriander seeds

½ teaspoon fennel seeds

Freshly ground black pepper

Green salad

Serves four

110g (4 oz) very fine green beans

110g (4 oz) small mange tout peas

1 lettuce

1 bunch watercress

1 tablespoon finely chopped chives

For the dressing

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

4 tablespoons light olive oil

Simmer the fish in the milk for about five minutes, until it will flake from the bones. Strain and reserve the milk. Leave the fish to cool.

Flake the fish, discarding the skin and bones and divide it between six well-buttered moulds or ramekins. I use oval metal moulds which hold about 100ml (¾ pint).

Put the eggs in a bowl with the cream and about 175ml (6 fl oz) of the reserved poaching milk. Whisk well and season with cayenne, adding salt if it is needed. Stir in the chopped chives.

Pour the custard over the fish, filling the dishes to the brim. Set the dishes in a deep tin or casserole and pour in boiling water to come at least half way up their sides. Bake the custards, covered, in a preheated cool oven (150°C/300°F, mark 2) for about 30 minutes, or until they have set.

Remove them from the water bath and allow them to cool. Refrigerate them only if necessary. They are best freshly made.

To make the dressing, combine the mustard, salt, pepper, lemon juice and oil and mix them together very well. Dress the salad immediately before serving it.

Put the leaves in a serving bowl, arranging them as if they were growing, if rather loosely, from its base. Add the beans and pea pods so that they are poking up between the leaves. This looks pretty without being too contrived, but you could just fling everything in the bowl higgledy-piggledy. Sprinkle with chopped chives.

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obligatory item in every ill-thought-out salad.

If the temptation to jazz-up an unexciting lettuce is irresistible, add a few lightly cooked mange tout peas and string-thin green beans. This kind of green salad is interesting enough to serve as first course. Choose cabbage lettuce or any other really green variety in preference to an iceberg.

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Put the leaves in a serving bowl, arranging them as if they were growing, if rather loosely, from its base. Add the beans and pea pods so that they are poking up between the leaves. This looks pretty without being too contrived, but you could just fling everything in the bowl higgledy-piggledy. Sprinkle with chopped chives.

To make the dressing, combine the mustard, salt, pepper, lemon juice and oil and mix them together very well. Dress the salad immediately before serving it.

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IN THE GARDEN

Take time to look and learn

One of the difficulties with gardening advice on radio or television, in magazines — and newspaper columns — is that it usually comes from professional gardeners who, while they are immensely knowledgeable on the subject, often seem to have no concept of life in a domestic garden, where children, pets and wildlife compete with plants for space and attention. These distractions bring about a number of problems which may not be dealt with by the professional giver of gardening advice.

The main problem with the gardening gurus is that they want to keep you busy the entire time. So this month, if you're not feeding gladioli, you should be earthing up potatoes, transplanting bulbs, taking half-price cuttings or removing strawberry foliage. When do you get time to lie in the sun and enjoy the sights and scents?

Do we really have to suffer through this kind of gardening *Pilgrim's Progress* of infinite tasks and imponderable adversity, where joy is hard-won? Of course gardens need attention but, in practice, if enjoyment is combined with vigilance, tasks can be minimized.

If you adopt a relaxed attitude, taking time off to walk among your plants, you are more likely to spot pest or disease problems early, when they can usually be dealt with quickly and easily. As you pass by, you can swoop on the odd weed, deadhead the roses and secure the waving stems of climbers.

You will savour the scent of roses on the morning air, of lavender rubbed between the fingers. There will be the pleasure of the first ripe raspberries, or of finding that your lilies have unexpectedly doubled in number, or of discovering a new plant, gained from who knows where — perhaps inadvertently smuggled in with some other purchase.

Inspection will also reveal

both blackfly and pinky rose aphids on your roses, and nasty wrinkles on the silky leaves of the cherry. These indicate the presence of the persistently hungry cherry aphids, which resemble shiny black fleas.

You will also do well to spot the early nibblings of that unpleasant grey-green caterpillar which adores Solomon's Seal and can defoliate it in a day or two, or a similar depredation of the current bushes which signifies the caterpillar of the magpie moth, a most beautiful but troublesomely voracious species.

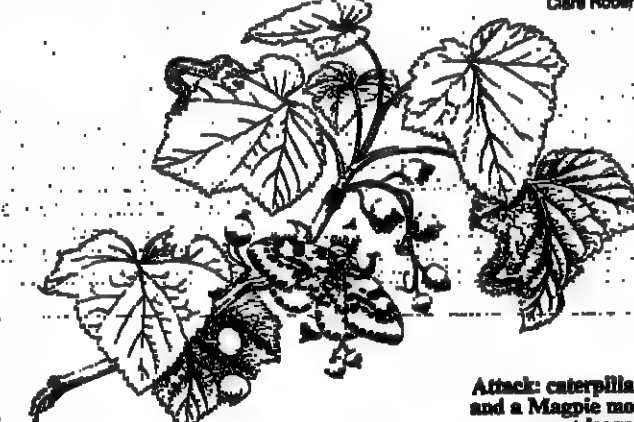
July is the time to enjoy the gardens of others as well as your own. Many gardens, private and public, are open this month, giving you an opportunity to observe the planning requirements, habit, spread and height of plants you are considering growing yourself.

Take a notebook in which to note down the names of new plants which capture your attention, or you will inevitably have forgotten them by the time you get home.

My list for this year includes a delightful pink linaria called Canon Went, and *Salvia patens* with its rich blue flowers. I was reminded, by a trip to the Chelsea Physic Garden, of *Lavandula stoechas* — an early lavender in which each flower is crowned with a cluster of bracts, making it look as though an exotic fly is perching there.

Also a delight from now on are the day lilies. Purists prefer the species, the yellow *Hemerocallis citrina* and the apricot-red *Hemerocallis fulva*, but there are numerous hybrid varieties for those with fancier tastes. These are plants worth considering for although — no single bloom lasts more than a day, they produce a succession of blooms lasting up to six or eight weeks.

Francesca Greenoak



Attack: caterpillars and a Magpie moth on currant leaves

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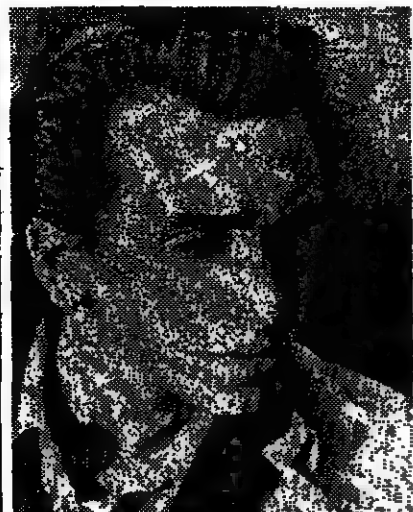
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THE WEEK AHEAD



PHOTOGRAPHY

PRIVATE EYE: Man Ray was a leading light in the surrealist movement which flourished in Paris in the 1920s. His *Tears* (above) is included in *L'Amour Fou: Photography and Surrealism*. Hayward Gallery, London SE1 (01-928 3144) from Thursday.



THEATRE

INSECT MAN: Tim Roth, fresh from his television triumph in *King of the Ghetto*, has the lead in *Metamorphosis*. Steven Berkoff's version of the Kafka story about a man who wakes up to find that he is a cockroach. Mermaid (01-236 5568), from Wednesday.



TELEVISION

TORCH CARRIER: The Statue of Liberty, built in France and shipped across the Atlantic in 210 crates, was unveiled 100 years ago. Its story is told in an Oscar-nominated documentary by the American director, Ken Burns. BBC2, Monday, 8-9pm.



ROCK

SAILING HOME: Rod Stewart will be hoping for a warm welcome on his return to Britain after a lengthy absence. His concert features a reunion of the Faces, plus guest appearances by ELO and Feargal Sharkey. Today, Wembley Stadium (01-902 1234).



FILMS

MAKING WHOOP! Whoopi Goldberg, in her first screen role, gives a skilful central performance in Steven Spielberg's *The Color Purple* (15), about the gradual emancipation of a black woman early in the century. ABC Shafesbury Avenue (01-836 6279), from Friday.



BOOKS

IRISH STEW: J.P. Donleavy, the American writer, returns to the land of his ancestors for *J.P. Donleavy's Ireland* (Michael Joseph, £12.95), a boisterous mix of anecdote and autobiography which covers his student days at Trinity College Dublin.

THE TIMES CHOICE

GALLERIES

OPENINGS

FACING UP: Andy Warhol and one of his recurrent themes: the self-portrait. Anthony D'Offey Gallery, 3 & 23 Dering Street, New Bond Street, London W1 (01-499 4100), from Tues.

FIGURATIVE SCULPTURE: The human form, from eight contemporary British sculptors. Castlefield Gallery, 5 Campfield Avenue Arcade, Off Deansgate, Manchester (061 832 8034), from Tues.

SCANDINAVIAN PAINTING: From the turn of the century, including Munch, Larsson and Ring. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 9144), from Thurs.

SELECTED

ARCHAEOLOGY: Major exhibition reviewing archaeological discoveries in Britain since the Second World War. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-638 1555).

FILMS

OPENINGS

ENEMY MINE (PG): Futuristic spectacular from the director of *The Boat*. Wolfgang Petersen, with Dennis Quaid and Louis Gossett Jr as enemy space pilots marooned together on a hostile planet. Prince Charles (01-437 8181), Odeon Marble Arch (01-723 2011), from Fri.

HALF LIFE (PG): Powerful, angry Australian documentary investigating the effect of American nuclear tests on the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands during the 1950s. Metro 1 (01-437 0757), from Fri.

MURPHY'S ROMANCE (15): Old-fashioned romantic drama, with Sally Field as a horse trainer, falling for James Garner (who was nominated for an Oscar). Curzon West End (01-438 4805), from Fri.

SELECTED

POOL FOR LOVE (18): Robert Altman's latest imaginative venture into filmed theatre. Premiere (01-439 5570), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-936 6148).

AN IMPUDENT GIRL (15): Claude Miller's smooth, sweet story of a frustrated teenager taking steps towards maturity during her summer holidays. Very French. Lumiere (01-836 0891), Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742).

PHOTOGRAPHY

BAT'S SECRET GARDENS: Photographed by a local man, Peter Woloszynski, who has established a reputation in this particular genre. Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Millom Street, Bath (0225 92841).

PORTRAITS AND DREAMS: Self portraits and family life photographed by the children of the Appalachian region of Kentucky. Stills Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh (031 557 1140).

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA: Tonight, Tues and Fri at 7.30pm. Covent Garden's new production of *Fidelio*, conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* continues its run on Mon and Thurs at 7.30pm. Covent Garden, London WCC (01-240 1066).

GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL: Tonight and Thurs at 4.50pm the long-awaited *Porgy and Bess* conducted by Simon Rattle with Wilford White and Cynthia Haymon; tomorrow at 4.50pm, Wed and Fri at 5.50pm, Peter Hall's new production of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*. Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 812411).

1 COMMEDIANTI: A newly formed Italian comic opera touring company stars tonight (from 8pm) at the Charleston Manor Festival, with a double-bill of Pergolesi's *La serva padrona* and Donizetti's *La Finta Giocosa*. Charleston Manor, West Dean, Seaford, Sussex (0323 870267).

CONCERTS

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM: Two performances today of its *Croque Gisele* together with Balanchine's *Allegro brillante*. Glen Tully's *Voluntaries* is given together with Balanchine's *Serenade* and John Tera's *Firebird* (Mon, Tues). Geoffrey Holder's *Banda* and Balanchine's *Serenade* and *Firebird* (Wed), or *Banda* plus Billy Wilson's *Concerto in F* (Thurs). The season ends with *Serenade*, *Firebird* and the London premiere of Domy Reiter-Soffer's *Equus* (Fri and July 12). Coliseum (01-836-3161).

MERYL TANKARD: She describes her *Travelling Light* as a dance theatre cabaret; it is given in London for one more week, then at Edinburgh. ICA Theatre (01-930-3647).

DANCE

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL: Bruckner's *Symphony No 9* and the world premiere of Alan Hoddinott's *Triple Concerto*. Town Hall, Imperial Square, Cheltenham (0242 523690), Today, 8pm.

LIZST'S FAUST: A rare performance of Liszt's *Faust Symphony* by the Philharmonia Orchestra under Esa-Pekka Salonen. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191), Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

FRIEND/PHILHARMONIA: Lionel Friend conducts Mendelssohn's *Habriden Overture*, Handel's *Water Music*, Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No 2* and Dvorak's *"New World"*. Royal Festival Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

BOETTCHER'S BEETHOVEN: Wilfried Boettcher conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in Beethoven's *Symphonies Nos 2 and 7*. Cheltenham Town Hall, Wed, 8pm.

ROCK AND JAZZ

BRACKNELL JAZZ FESTIVAL: Back in competition with Wimbledon, this most relaxed of jazz picnics features Don Cherry, John Scofield, Chris

McGregor and many others. Today/tomorrow, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Berks (0344 484123).

QUEEN With Status Quo. Wed, St James' Park, Newcastle (0632 611571); Fri and July 12, Wembley Stadium (01-902 1234).

GILBERTO GILMILTON NASCIMENTO: Two giants of Brazilian pop, Gil on Tues and Nascimento on Fri. Hammersmith, London W6 (01-748 4081).

CELIA CRUZ: The Aretha Franklin of salsa, accompanied by Tito Puente's band. Thurs, Hammersmith Palais, London W6 (01-748 2812).

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

CABARET: Gillian Lynne directs Wayne Sleep, Kelly Hunter in a new production of the musical based on Isherwood's stories. Strand (01-836 2650), Previews from Thurs. Opens July 17.

OPENINGS

SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDEHEIM: David Kernan's tribute to Stephen Sondheim's lyrics and music. Donmar Warehouse (01-240 8230), Opens Tues, Brasserie Lipp, 101 Avenue des Champs-Élysées, Paris (01-4733 1111), from Fri.

WIENER SCHNITZLER: Excerpts from the plays and stories of Arthur Schnitzler using members of the company of *Dalliance* (now at the Lyttelton). Platform performance. Cottesloe (01-928 2252), Mon, July 18, Aug 11, 19.

SELECTED

THE ENTERTAINER: Peter Bowles gamely steps into Olivier's shoes as the seedy, emotionally empty stand-up comic Archie Rice - perhaps John Osborne's greatest creation. Shaftesbury (01-379 5396).

OUT OF TOWN

STRATFORD UPON AVON: The Art of Success: Nick Dear's play about the life and work of William Hogarth. The Other Place (0789 295623), Previews today, Mon, Tues. Opens Wed. In repertory.

A Midsummer Night's Dream: New production directed by Bill Alexander. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623), Previews today (matinee and evening), Mon. Opens Tues. In repertory.

BOOKINGS FIRST CHANCE

NATIONAL THEATRE: Priority booking opens this week for David Hare's *The Bay of Nice* and *Wrecked Eggs* (from Sept). Also Pinter's *The Magistrate*. National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2252).

BOLSHOI BALLET: Booking open for performances in Battersea Park, Manchester and Birmingham, August. Tickets from the Bolshoi Ballet in The Park, PO Box 2, London W6 0LO (01-741 9939), Manchester (061 238 9922), Birmingham (021 622 7486).

LAST CHANCE

RONALD SEARLE - TO THE KWAI AND BACK: Drawings by the artist while serving with the Royal Engineers and as a Japanese prisoner of war, 1942-45. Ends tomorrow. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (01-735 9922).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Films: Geoff Brown; Photography: Michael Young; Dance: John Percival; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Coppes; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

A funny route to the National

What brought a former writer of *Yes, Minister* to the South Bank? Jonathan Lynn had his reasons

To people who know him chiefly as the co-writer of *Yes, Minister*, Jonathan Lynn's arrival at the National Theatre will come as something of a surprise. Having already directed a Feydeau farce for them, he was invited by Peter Hall to form a new group of NT actors to give a sequence of three plays. The second surprise is his choice of plays - two little-known hits from Broadway's past and one classic, neglected English farce. *The Magistrate*. "I believe in a good night out", he says, explaining his policy simply. "I want people to feel entertained and have a good laugh."

These were reassuring words to hear bouncing off the National Theatre concrete. Backstage at the Royal, the impression is of a man who, after being signed in and looked over, one is led to an interview cell of extreme lugubriousness, furnished only with old paper cups. A previous occupant had passed his time arranging the drawing pins on the notice board into a cry for help. "Brian where are you?" But Jonathan Lynn, after being led in by a warder, seemed to be enjoying his porridge. A roly-poly Ustinovian figure, with lips that curl like those of attendant cherubs in lascivious Old Masters, he looks as though he might introduce a note of revelry between these sad, forbidding walls.

What had persuaded him to come inside? "Oh, the day that Peter Hall rang, it seemed like a good idea. I do whatever comes along that seems a good idea at the time. People have given me a great sense of support. We're a mixed bunch of directors - Peter Wood, Richard Eyre, David Hare, Peter Gill - and now me." He sounded surprised at the company in which he found himself. The idea for the Whitehall saga occurred to Lynn's part-

ner, Antony Jay. They had met while writing management training films. Lynn did not respond to the idea at first. "I had written about 50 situation comedies for television and didn't want to write another one ever again." But after some years he was more receptive when Jay mentioned the unpromising idea once more. In a sense he points out, *Yes, Minister* is a training film for politicians, just as *Fawlty Towers* can be seen as a training film about the problems of hotel management.

The success of *Yes, Minister* and its best-selling books-of-the-series rather eclipsed Jonathan Lynn's earlier career as an actor. In the 1970s he was seldom off the screen as actor-screenwriter in series such as *Doctor in the House* and its sequel. He had begun his acting career in the Cambridge Footlights revue, playing the drums, but for the New York run, he was promoted to playing in the sketches.

It seems odd to recall now that one of his better known roles was Moul the tailor in *Fiddler on the Roof*, a part with its own solo. Even this does not exhaust his multifaceted career. Apart from directing a number of West End successes - the last Leonard Rossiter *Look, for example* - he is an established screen-writer. *Clue*, a murder story based on the family board game *Cluedo*, was his, and gave him the chance both to write and direct. "I still think of myself as an actor," he begins - but corrects himself - "No, I think of myself as more a director and writer. No - I don't really know what I think of myself."

Another Getty at *Soyuz Ploze*? Strange as it may seem, there is a growing body of opinion that the California-based Getty Museum may take on the breathtaking 17th-century mansion near Guildford which was occupied by J. Paul Getty until his death in 1976. The house is on the market at around £16 million, and would be an ideal halfway house for items purchased in Britain, but not granted an export licence. That a certain amount of "borrowing" could be done without contravening the Government's export rules.

Peter Lewis

Jacobowsky and the Colonel previews at the Olivier (01-928 2252) from Friday and opens on July 22.

ARTSDIARY

Front line writer

A brutal reminder that even the arts in South Africa cannot escape the present apartheid. The black African writer, Mphahlele Ngema, well known here for his play *Wozu Albert*, was in fear of his life after his gunmen burst into a performance of his new play recently and killed the promoter. The play, *Asinamali*, is a satire on police informers. It is thought the gunmen were looking for Ngema.

A film of the play made by the BBC will be screened in August, while a stage version will be produced at the Edinburgh Festival. BBC producer David Thompson tells me: "The play is uncompromising. It looks at the roots of violence in the townships and the role of the informer. It is a cry from the heart." But despite the threats, to Ngema, he passes a message back through a third party: "I will not be intimidated."

Still life

Despite apocalyptic tales that the Oxford Playhouse is about to collapse through lack of financial support from the University, I can reveal that a year's stay of execution has been granted. Robert Weir, whose committee has been charged with finding a solution to the theatre's funding problems, assures me that "The playhouse will never be dark".

With a courage and optimism rare in the publishing business, *Three*, former Macdonald executive will announce on Monday that they have created a new publishing house. Headline, Tim Hely-Hutchinson, Sue Fletcher and Stan Thomas have established what they describe as "the largest independent book producers ever to be launched in Britain". But how large is large? When they open for business next week they will have commissioned just two authors. Neither is known to me.

Pinter lead

With her stage play *Three and Bravo* transferring to the West End shortly, Faye Dunaway is already looking ahead to the filming of Donald Freed's story of an incarcerated First Lady of America. She has



Pinter and Dunaway

acquired the film rights and is casting around for a director. Once again her husband, photographer Terry O'Neill, will be passed over - as he was in the couple's unhappy flirtation with Tom Kempinski's *Duet for One*. Her favourite at the moment is the play's stage director Harold Pinter. It will mark his big-screen directing debut.

Crafty art

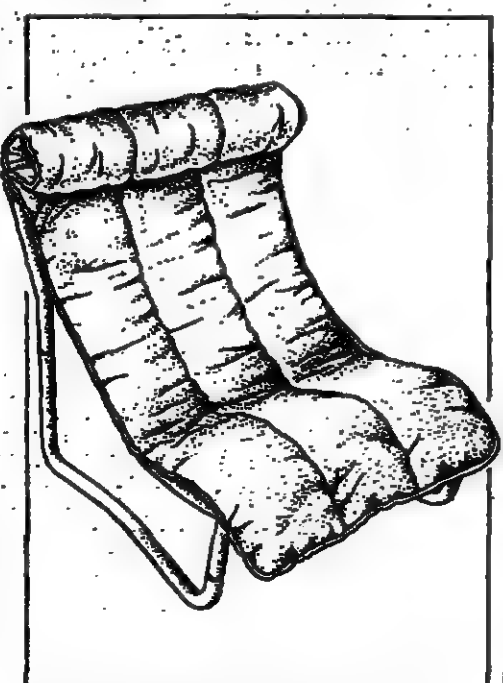
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Christopher Wilson

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 4: The President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau Freirauf von Weizsäcker, with the German Suite in attendance, left Buckingham Palace this morning upon the conclusion of a State Visit to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Mr Richard Boland and Mr Frederick Kemp had the honour of being received by the Queen when Her Majesty decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

The Prince Andrew, Patron of the Jubilee Sailing Trust, accompanied by Miss Sarah Ferguson, this morning attended the naming ceremony of the STS Lord Nelson at Southampton.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt).

Wing Commander Adam Wise was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this morning visited Royal Air Force Henlow.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight and was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Bedfordshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Hamner Hanbury) and the Station Commander (Group Captain R.A. Gill).

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Patron of the British School of Osteopathy, this afternoon attended the annual presentation of awards at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, SW1.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Lord Mayor of Westminster (Councillor Mrs Terence Mallinson) and the Principal of the School (Sir Norman Lindop).

Mrs Richard Currey Pole was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 4: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today visited Perth and, on behalf of the Queen, presented New Colours to the 1st Battalion 5th Highland Volunteers.

Her Majesty returned to London in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain Niall Hall were in attendance.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Sir Alastair Aird at the Memorial Service for Sir Peter Pears which was held in Westminster Abbey today.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 4: The Princess of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning opened the Deptford Enterprise Agency, 146 Deptford High Street, SE8.

Mr Rupert Fairfax was in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, the British Sports Association for the Disabled, this morning at Kensington Palace received three members of the "Great British Push".

The Princess of Wales, President of Dr Bernardo's, this afternoon attended a Garden Party for Bernardo supporters.

and voluntary workers at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire.

Her Royal Highness, attended by Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Lieutenant-Commander Richard Ayler, RN, travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

July 4: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today undertook engagements in Lancashire and was received on arrival at British Aerospace Airfield, Sarnesbury, by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Lancashire (Mr Simon Townley).

Her Royal Highness, as President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this afternoon opened Mother's Birthdays Street Home for NSPCC Child and Family Centre in Preston.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon later attended the Blackburn and District Children's Homes/NSPCC Family Resource Centre in Blackburn.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, was attended by The Hon Mrs Wills.

July 4: The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon presented the Keep Britain Tidy Group Queen Mother's Birthdays Awards at Guildhall, London, Garden.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 4: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, today opened an Exhibition on the History of Freemasonry at Freemasons' Hall, London W1.

Captain Michael Campbell-Lamerton was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
July 4: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at the Foundation Fund Concert, which was given to launch the 175th Anniversary Society of the Royal Philharmonic Society, at the Royal Albert Hall.

Lady Angela Whiteley was in attendance.

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
At the council meeting of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, immediately after yesterday's annual meeting, Mr J.A. Parry was elected president of the college. The other officers for the ensuing year are Professor I.A. Silver (senior vice-president), Professor L.C. Vaughan (junior vice-president) and Mr J.H. Parsons (treasurer). At the annual meeting, honorary associateship of the college was conferred upon Professor J.M.C.M. Cunningham, Dr E.H. Polge and Mr C.H. Giddens. Mr K.N. Burns, P.N. Hull and Mr P.G.H. Mann were elected fellows of the college.

Saddlers' Company
At a court meeting held on July 1 at the Saddlers' Company, officers of the Saddlers' Company for the ensuing year to take office on July 23:

Master: Mr P.G. Glossop; Key Warden: Major J.P.E. Welch; Quartermaster: Mr R.C. Giddens; Treasurer: Mr J.A. Parry; Junior Warden: Mr J.H. Parsons; Senior Warden: Mr J.A. Parry; Junior Warden: Mr J.H. Parsons; Senior Warden: Mr J.A. Parry.

Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Harold Acton, 82; Mr Mark Cox, 43; Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, 70; Sir John Gielgud, 70; Lord Gormanley, 69; Sir Michael Hamilton, 68; Sir Gilbert Laithe, 92; Mr G.A.R. Lock, 57; Mr Philip Madoe, 52; Major-General Sir Jeremy Moore, 74.

TOMORROW: Mr Dave Allen, 50; Mr Vladimir Ashkenazy, 49;

Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM
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Please allow at least 48 hours before publication.

Deaths, marriages, births, deaths, and in memoriam, be of one mind, live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

2 Continues 13: 11

BIRTHS

AGRESTI - On 23rd June, at University College Hospital, London to Deborah (née Azzurri) and Simon, a son, James Robin Ralph.

BENNETT - On 30th June, to Ron (née) and Nigel, a daughter, Emma Victoria.

CARTWRIGHT - On 30th June, 1986 at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to David and Jane, a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth.

CLARK - On 30th June, at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, to a son, James Dominic Daniel, a brother for Lucas.

COOPER - On 2nd July, to Christine (née) and Neil, a son, Simon Charles.

DALGLISH - On 3rd July, at St. James' Hospital, London, to a son, James.

DODDLEY - On 30th June, 1986, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Barbara (née Thompson) and Michael, a son, William Thomas.

ELTON - On 21st June, at the Portland Hospital, to a son, Alexander.

MARRIAGES
July 4: On 30th June, at St. James' Hospital, London, to a son, James Dominic Daniel, a brother for Lucas.

COOPER - On 2nd July, to Christine (née) and Neil, a son, Simon Charles.

DALGLISH - On 3rd July, at St. James' Hospital, London, to a son, James.

DODDLEY - On 30th June, 1986, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Barbara (née Thompson) and Michael, a son, William Thomas.

ELTON - On 21st June, at the Portland Hospital, to a son, Alexander.

DEATHS
ASHTON Professor John, C.B.E. - On 2nd July, in hospital after a short illness, aged 82, a son, John, a brother for Lucas.

CLARK - On 30th June, at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, to a son, James Dominic Daniel, a brother for Lucas.

COOPER - On 2nd July, to Christine (née) and Neil, a son, Simon Charles.

DALGLISH - On 3rd July, at St. James' Hospital, London, to a son, James.

DODDLEY - On 30th June, 1986, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Barbara (née Thompson) and Michael, a son, William Thomas.

ELTON - On 21st June, at the Portland Hospital, to a son, Alexander.

Managing obedience to change

After the first Easter Day, the faithful shared the death and resurrection of Christ, and the trauma of his death and the triumph of his resurrection, they walked in newness of life and shared in the Spirit. Their worship was dominated by thanksgiving and hope.

Their practical living and corporate decisions rested on their astonishing experience grounded in Christ. They experienced "new life" both in worship and in the way they ordered their affairs.

The confidence, courage and sheer nerve of the first generations of Christians, scattered amongst different cultures and nationalities, flowed from what God had achieved on the cross and the resurrection. God had changed things. Carrying the cross for them meant trying to change the future.

Of all the practical decisions which confronted the faithful, none was more difficult than the change of attitude and belief involved in admitting Gentiles. If this crucial choice had gone wrong, the Church might well have been a significant body within Judaism, but would never have become worldwide. More seriously, it would have discovered the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

But "new life" led to unprecedented decisions. The Book of Acts describes the conversion of the gentile, Cornelius, and the decisions which, after much turmoil, flowed from this. Peter acted first. He obeyed God's call to baptise Cornelius, a difficult decision involving much reflection and discussion. Dreams revealed his self-questioning. Afterwards, what he

had done was declared allowable by a synod.

The author of the Acts, in telling the story of the conversion of Cornelius, emphasized to the reader that it was God who brought about this turning point (see Professor Haenschen's magisterial commentary, *The Acts of the Apostles*). The Gospel required breaking rules and being prepared to go on breaking the rules.

The baptism of Cornelius, a gentile, was not an isolated case, but a fundamental turning point, and only later did scattered Gentiles accept the change. Only by facing this could the European gentile Church be founded.

The synod described in Chapter 15 accepted that what had already happened was done in obedience to God. But before that could take place, the Church had to be changed. Paul and Peter, who appears to have been "got at" by more hesitant fellow Christians.

Paul tells us in his Letter to the Galatians that he opposed Peter to the face. Had he lost his nerve, the Church would have remained Jewish. Paul faced anger, his own and his opponents, but he stood for the "discerned Spirit" and opened the Church to the world.

Paul, the Apostle of the gentiles, saw that the Church was faced by great challenges: the divisions between Jews and gentiles, between slaves and free men, between men and women. The first was dealt with by the first generations of Christians. The second had to wait for William Wilberforce and the third is

now facing the churches of our day.

In successive centuries, Christians have found it hard to manage change. In the Middle Ages, the life of St Francis and the founding of his order was a challenge to what was normal.

More recently, the restoration of religious orders in Anglicanism and many of the pioneering achievements of the Oxford Movement first had to be put into practice in parishes and then accepted by the Church as a whole.

The Church of South India has a first to unite and was afterwards recognized.

Today, the Church of England must decide about ordaining women. Should those women, who believe they have a vocation to the priesthood, be tested by the accident of birth? It is no accident that the Church of England is the first of the 750 women, who are priests in the Anglican Communion, was ordained by Bishop R.O. Hall in dangerous, war-torn China.

Only gradually did the provinces of the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand and elsewhere resolve to ordain women after discussion in synods. The "Cornelius principle", listening to God, considering the requirements of the cross and resurrection, "new life", then praxis, then synod.

Canon Gerald Hudson, in his *Sion College* paper, *Succouring a Distressed Faith*, reminds us that when theology began to take account of evolution, much controversy followed. The clergy condemned *Essays and Reviews*,

many thousands signing a petition against it. But Henry Sidgwick said that "the lady do not seek what is safe but what is true".

Arguing against him, insisting on tradition and approval by Convocation, was the redoubtable Archdeacon Denison, who pressed against contemporary theology as "another symptom" of the decadence of the English: "the Church of England is a secular education, and schemes for a channel 'tunnel'". But of course a theology which accepts scientific and historical research was later incorporated.

Unprecedented decisions, such as the admission of the gentiles and the abolition of slavery, were crucial to the progress of the Gospel; so now the Church of England is required to find a way in which women can be admitted to the priesthood.

The decision of eight Anglican provinces may feel difficult to some members of the Church of England, but the praxis of those provinces, together with the witness borne by the ministry already exercised by women in this country, should encourage our Synod's work on managing this change, loyal to the dynamic tradition of new life, arising from the death and resurrection.

Carrying one's cross does not mean only the trials which face everyone, but making the changes required by the obedience to God.

Alan Webster
Dean of St Paul's

OBITUARY

RUDY VALLEE

First of the Hollywood crooners

Rudy Vallee, the American singing idol of the late Twenties and Thirties, who also had a long career as a comic character actor in films, died on July 3 at his home in Hollywood. He was 85.

An engaging, moon-faced man with dark wavy hair, he has a niche in showbusiness history as the first "crooner", a name coined for his smooth delivery of popular songs. He was also one of the first entertainers to generate mass hysteria among his audiences.

He was born Hubert Prior Vallee in Island Pond, Vermont, on July 28, 1901, the son of a pharmacist. He intended to follow his father's career but took instead to the microphone, which he played in his own bands while a student at the University of Maine, and at Yale.

Turning singer from instrumentalist, and affecting a distinctive drawl, he became a popular favourite on the radio, with his signature greeting, "Hi-yo, everybody!", as well as in nightclubs and on the stage.

He was known, after the title of one of his most successful songs, as "The Ragabond Lover", and this was the title of his first feature film, made in 1929.

During the 1930s he became a popular Hollywood crooner, appearing in many features and short films, usually musicals and romantic comedies. He was rarely to be seen without the megaphone that became his trademark.

In the 1940s he turned to character parts, often playing eccentric millionaires, and

had a fruitful collaboration with the director, Preston Sturges, on such comedies as *The Palm Beach Story*, *Unfaithfully Yours* and *The Bachelors*.

In his later years he served as a reminder of a vanished Hollywood era, that of long, sleek, rapturous, raved, and snap brim hats. And he himself remained a spirited, jocular and hospitable man.

He published his autobiography, *Let the Chips Fall*, in 1976.

He was four times married.

SIR DESMOND POND

Professor Sir Desmond Pond, who died on June 29 at the age of 66, following a short illness, had a distinguished career as first Professor of Psychiatry in the University of London at the London Hospital Medical School, and later as Chief Scientist at the Department of Health and Social Security.

Pond was a neuropsychiatrist with neurological and psychiatric skills, besides being a man of varied talents, an accomplished pianist and a founder member of the Institute of Religion and Medicine.

Desmond Arthur Pond was born on September 2, 1919, and educated at St. John's, Harrow, and St. Olave's, SE1. He then proceeded to Clare College, Cambridge, and was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1952.

He had been a member of the Medical Research Council and had held office in a number of organizations concerned with epilepsy and the welfare of sufferers from that disorder.

He was President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists from 1978 to 1981, when he received a Knighthood. While President he became the first psychiatrist to chair the Committee of Royal Medical Colleges.

Towards the end of his career Pond took on the onerous duties of Chief Scientist at the DHSS, and though the post was supposed to be part-time, he devoted much energy to it, and to encouraging scientists in the fields in which the Department was commissioning research.

He married in 1945 - Dr Helen Jordan, also a doctor. She survives him with their three daughters, all of whom are musical, two being professional musicians.

DR C. M. FRANZERO

Dr Carlo Maria Franzero, the Italian journalist and author, who came to London at the inception of the Fascist regime and stayed for the rest of his life, died on June 29. He was 94.

Born in Turin on December 21, 1892, his first job in London was as a contributor to the *Daily Telegraph*, but after the war he resumed his assignment as London correspondent of the Rome daily, *Il Tempo*, which he represented for 25 years.

Franzero was a prolific writer, his first work, in 1935, *Britannia Romana*, was soon translated into English.

This was followed by a

number of other books, among them *The Memoirs of Pontius Pilate* (1948), *The Life and Times of Tarquin the Proud*, *The Life and Times of Oscar Wilde*.

He also wrote the definitive biography of John Florio, translator of Montaigne, but perhaps his best book is the biographical *Inside Italy* (1941).

Edward C. Wells, who in an almost fifty-year association as an engineer with Boeing helped design some of the company's most celebrated aircraft, including B-52 strategic bomber and the 747 jumbo jet, died on July 1 at the age of 75.

Memorial service

Sir Peter Pears
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Captain Sir Alastair Aird at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Peter Pears, held yesterday in Westminster Abbey. Princess Margaret, Mrs D.W. Jackson, the Rhine, President of the Aldeburgh Foundation, was represented by Lord Geddes. The Right Rev Edward Knapp-Fisher, Sub-Dean of Westminster, officiated, assisted by the Rev Alan Luff, Precentor and Sacrist, and the Rev Dr Anthony Harvey. The Bishop of Dunwich read the lesson and Mr Richard Pasco read "Hymn to St Cecilia" by W.H. Auden. The chorists of Westminster Abbey, accompanied on the harp by Professor Osian Ellis, sang Psalm 23. The Brodsky String Quartet, representing the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies, played the First Movement from the String Quartet in D minor by Mozart. Miss Heather Harper sang "Scuzzler, Traizen", by J.S. Bach.

and Miss Sophie McMillan played the oboe obbligato. The Right Rev Robin Woods, Canon Trevor Benson, the Rev David Hutchinson and the Rev Michael Thompson were robed and in the sanctuary. The Lord Mayor of Westminster attended and among others present were: Margaret and Mrs D.W. Jackson, the Rhine, President of the Aldeburgh Foundation, was represented by Lord Geddes. The Right Rev Edward Knapp-Fisher, Sub-Dean of Westminster, officiated, assisted by the Rev Alan Luff, Precentor and Sacrist, and the Rev Dr Anthony Harvey. The Bishop of Dunwich read the lesson and Mr Richard Pasco read "Hymn to St Cecilia" by W.H. Auden. The chorists of Westminster Abbey, accompanied on the harp by Professor Osian Ellis, sang Psalm 23. The Brodsky String Quartet, representing the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies, played the First Movement from the String Quartet in D minor by Mozart. Miss Heather Harper sang "Scuzzler, Traizen", by J.S. Bach.

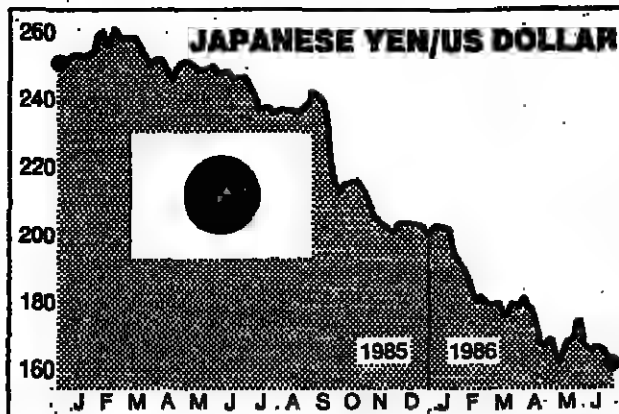
Church services: Sixth Sunday after Trinity

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Gilts rise strongly on new hope of interest rate cuts

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent



Hopes of an early move to lower interest rates sent British government bonds up strongly for the third day in succession yesterday. Long-dated gilts gained 1/4 to 1 1/2 points.

Interest-rate optimism has returned to the London market this week, in the expectation that next Tuesday's money supply figures will be satisfactory and that interest rate cuts in other countries will provide room for reductions here.

Mr Jacques de Larosière, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, echoed these hopes at a United Nations meeting in Geneva.

"The favourable outlook for prices and a combination of prudent fiscal policies and moderate rates of money expansion should permit the desirable lowering of interest rates to continue," he said.

Market hopes have revived in spite of the Bank of England's extremely cautious approach to interest-rate cuts, after three large monthly increases in the sterling M3 measure of the money supply.

City analysts expect a rise of between 0.5 and 1 per cent in sterling M3 in the June bank-

ing month, when the figures are released on Tuesday. This would reduce the 12-month growth rate from 19.5 per cent in May, to 18 per cent or less in June.

A stronger reason for hopes of lower rates in Britain comes with the prospect of reductions elsewhere. Yesterday, the dollar continued to slide against the yen in particular.

Despite thin markets, with the Independence Day holiday in the US, the Bank of Japan was unable, despite substantial intervention in Far Eastern trading, to stop the dollar from falling against the yen.

The dollar closed near its post-war low at 160.60, com-

pared with 161.40 at the previous close. Currency dealers expect the Bank of Japan to stop intervening after the Japanese elections — to both houses of the Diet — on Sunday. Instead, it is thought there will be a reduction in the Japanese discount rate, to attempt to divert dollar weakness from the yen to the mark.

The Bundesbank indicated an unwillingness to reduce interest rates after its fortnightly council meeting on Thursday.

Yesterday, the Mitsubishi Research Institute predicted weak growth for the Japanese economy in this fiscal year. Growth is forecast at just 1.8 per cent in fiscal 1986, which began in April, while the yen-

dollar rate is expected to move to 155.

There is also strong pressure on the US Federal Reserve Board to cut the discount rate, amid continued signs of weakness in the US economy.

In Britain, there is some difference in emphasis between the Bank of England and the Treasury on monetary conditions.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, has brought attention to the strength of sterling this year, despite the sharp fall in oil prices. He has also pointed to the performance of narrow money, M0, with a rate of increase towards the lower end of its 2 to 6 per cent target range.

The Bank of England has expressed concern about the build-up of liquidity in the economy with the strong rise in sterling M3, and also about less satisfactory indicators of inflation such as unit wage and salary costs.

There was no obvious interest rate hint in the Bank's money market dealing operations yesterday. It relieved £321 million of the money market shortage through outright bank bill purchases and £535 million by means of a gilt sale and repurchase at rates between and 10 1/2 per cent.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Investors switch off over Peacock view

When the Government considers dramatic initiatives in Britain's television industry, it would do well to consider City reaction to the Peacock report — a studied yawn. Shares in television companies were virtually unchanged. This can hardly be put down to the leaking of the report, since this produced little reaction either. It is, however, one indication of the likelihood of action, since investors have learned the hard way that almost any change or novelty is bad for them.

History suggests that new developments in this field prove unprofitable, as were most television contracting companies in the early days. As the problems are sorted out and bright ideas dropped, so investors become more interested. But if they become too interested, government is liable to change the tax system.

At the moment, the television contracting sector is buoyant thanks to booming advertising revenues. The launch of Thames has been a great success and early reactions to the flotation of TV-am are favourable. The report could have changed all this. Advertising on BBC, while good for advertising agents, would have knocked commercial TV shares hard, since even a short-term loss of 10 to 15 per cent of revenue would have transformed their present cosy prosperity.

Instead, companies face the possibility at some future date of a tender auction for franchises. How this would relate to the levy or how the Independent Broadcasting Authority would interpret its licence to refuse the highest bidder is unclear. The present leadership of the IBA seems more sympathetic to stability, almost a prerequisite for any market enthusiasm for minor contractors. And here, the report scores something of a plus. Since there is to be a delay, perhaps until after the next election, before major decisions are taken, there is a strong chance that the renewal or change of franchises will be postponed from 1989. Adding a couple of years onto franchise life is by no means unprecedented. In this case, it would seem necessary unless a new framework is fixed in the next 18 months.

The City would also be chary of bold new technological developments. The cable TV hype of a few years ago is still remembered. The hope that consumer demand for entertainment would pay for interactive cabling of Britain fell foul of free ITV and the unavailability of the licence fee. From the marketing point of view, cable has given way to satellite television. Any renewed interest in cabling by British Telecom or Cable & Wireless would depend as much on interest rates and the tax regime as on the market. The abolition of 100 per cent first-year investment allowances has not helped. In any case, Ofel has been looking to local cable networks as a third force in telecommunications.

rather than to reinforce the present duopoly there.

City analysts believe that the City would rally round to finance a privatized Radio 1 and 2. But this is unlikely to generate much excitement. Even the more distant television stations are too small to bother big investors. Added to the pavlovian aversion to risk and novelty, this suggests that the brave new long-term developments envisaged by Peacock would have to be undertaken by the largest national or international companies rather than from grass roots subscription to new enterprises.

Liquid assets

The Chancellor's failure to achieve the modern miracle of turning water into pre-election tax cuts is more of a political embarrassment than an economic one, at least in the short-term. It is certainly possible for the Government to achieve £4.75 billion of asset sales annually from now until 1988-89, even if it means using up most of the best shots.

Ignoring the Trustee Savings Banks, which do not generate privatization proceeds, the schedule starts in November with British Gas, set to bring in a net £5.6 billion, probably spread over three years. British Airways, worth £1 billion, may follow early next year, then Rolls-Royce, the British Airports Authority and the National Bus Company, worth about £1.3 billion in total.

Adding in a bit for any parts of British Steel which may find a buyer, this gives a total of up to £8.5 billion. The third payment on British Telecom shares has already generated £2 billion in the current fiscal year, pushing the prospective total up to £10.5 billion, some £4 billion short of the planned £4.75 billion a year over three years.

Fortunately, help is at hand. The Chancellor's share portfolio includes a £3.1 billion holding in British Petroleum which can be sold off at any time. And, as is often forgotten, there is plenty more mileage left in British Telecom.

The Government owns 49 per cent of British Telecom, worth a little over £7 billion. It is committed not to sell off any more of BT until April 1988, but after that the doors are wide open. And the commitment runs out just about the time that a gap opens up in the privatization programme because of the lack of the water authorities' sell-off.

There is a longer term difficulty, if Thursday's announcement on the water authorities means, not a one or two-year delay, but indefinite postponement. New-style managers, such as Roy Watts of Thames Water, might drift away discouraged.

Early privatization would have allowed the investment programmes needed in the nineties to be financed outside the public sector borrowing requirement. That may no longer be possible.

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1356.5 (-9.2)
FT-SE 100 1649.4 (-6.8)
Bargains 25216
USM (Datastream) 126.46 (+0.51)
THE POUND
US Dollar 1.5405 (-0.0050)
W German Mark 3.3494 (-0.0121)
Trade-weighted 76.0 (-0.2)

Export rate reduction

Western industrial countries have agreed to lower the minimum interest rates they apply to officially guaranteed export credits, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development announced in Paris yesterday.

The new rates, which begin on July 15, represent an across-the-board cut of 1.4 percentage points from the rates since January 15. The minimum rate on export credits for the world's poorest countries is to fall to 1.4 per cent from 2.8 per cent.

Credits for moderately developed countries can be granted at a rate as low as 8.25 per cent for maturities of two to five years, down from 9.65. The minimum rate for relatively rich countries will dip to 9.35 per cent from 10.95 per cent for short-term credits, and to 9.8 per cent from 11.2 per cent for medium-term credits.

Meadow Farm drops bid

Hillside Holdings, the fast-growing food group, has increased its offer for North Devon Meats, a farmers' co-operative abattoir, from £3.1 million to £3.5 million. The new offer has the strong backing of the North Devon board.

As a result, the USM-quoted Meadow Farm Produce has decided to drop out of the race for the abattoir, having lost the battle for Eagle Star in 1983 to BAT. It is also expanding in the British legal expenses insurance market through Affiliated Legal Protection, which it acquired for £2.4 million.

BBB debut

BBB Design, the Hertfordshire publishing group, is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market with a £5.5 million price tag. Just over 30 per cent of the equity is being offered through a placing at 67p a share. The company has reported profits before tax of £531,000 on a turnover of £1.8 million.

Offer for sale

Windmoor, the women's fashion house which sells through concessions in department stores, has been priced at 106p a share, giving a market capitalization of £23.3 million. A total of 6.6 million shares are being offered for sale. The prospectus will be in *The Times* on Monday.

Further fall

Shares in Britain's largest merchant banking group, Morgan Grenfell, continued to disappoint stock market investors yesterday, falling a further 2p to 488p, compared with the striking price of 500p.

COMPANY NEWS

BERKELEY TECHNOLOGY: Results for the six months to June 30 (five months to June 30, 1985) include a gross interim dividend of 3 cents (2.5 cents). With figures in \$500,000, fee income was \$5,673 (3,625); profit before tax \$791 (4,070). Earnings per share are 11.2 cents (5.0 cents). The share price was unchanged at 193 cents.

OAKWOOD GROUP: Results for the half year to March 31 include, with figures in £000, turnover £947 (6,359), pre-tax profit £66 (68), tax £23 (22). Earnings per share were 2.15p (2.3p). Net tangible assets per share 7.99p (1.76p). There will be no interim dividend (2p). The share price was 98, down 17p.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Market Closed
Dow Jones: 17597.73 (-94.07)
Nikkei Dow: 1756.76 (-0.82)
Hang Seng: 292.8 (-1.8)
Australian Gen: 1142.7 (+5.9)
Sydney: AO: 1142.7 (+5.9)
Frankfurt: 1867.4 (-39.5)
Brussels: 733.32 (+35.55)
Geneva: 372.0 (+6.7)
Paris: GAC: 522.40 (+1.4)
Zurich: 522.40 (+1.4)
London closing prices Page 20

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10.9%
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/4%
buying rate
US:
Prime Rate Market Closed
Federal Funds
3-month Treasury Bills
30-year bonds

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1.5405
£ DM 3.3494
£ Sfr 2.7155
FF 107.707
Yen 247.44
Index: 76.0
ECU £0.639666
SDR £0.767471

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
AG Barr 345p (+12p)
Brenntag Group 188p (+10p)
Marler Estates 285p (+10p)
Marler Estates 181p (+13p)
Jacques Vert 482p (+18p)
Avenia Group 554p (+17p)
Reed International 1040p (+15p)
Huntprint 285p (+15p)
Reckitts 308p (+15p)
AS Ports 1520p (+52p)
Parkfield Group 545p (+30p)

FALLS:
Thom EMI 471p (-11p)
Manders Holdings 285p (-10p)
Evered Holdings 250p (-17p)
McKinnell 543p (-22p)
TI Group 106p (-10p)
Harold Ingram 180p (-18p)
Daglan Holdings 88p (-27p)

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$343.80 pm \$343.80
close \$343.75-344.25 (\$222.75-223.25)
New York:
Comex \$Market Closed

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) - \$10.15 bid (\$10.40)

Allianz in £215m cash call

By Clare Dobie

Allianz AG Holding, West Germany's largest insurer, yesterday announced terms of a deep-discounted rights issue to raise £215 million (DM721 million). The company said the proceeds would be used for expansion at home and abroad.

In January this year, Allianz acquired Cornhill Insurance from BTR for £300 million, having lost the battle for Eagle Star in 1983 to BAT. It is also expanding in the British legal expenses insurance market through Affiliated Legal Protection, which it acquired for £2.4 million.

In Italy it has acquired RAS, the country's second-largest insurer for DMI billion and last year it failed to acquire AA Mutual of Johannesburg. For every 15 shares in issue, holders can subscribe for one new share at £267 (DM900). Yesterday, Allianz's shares fell £4 to £690 in London. The shares are listed on eight stock exchanges in West Germany, on three exchanges in Switzerland and as well as in London.

Shareholders resident in the United Kingdom must exercise their subscription rights between July 10 and July 23. After that date, the rights will cease to have any value.

Allianz Group's worldwide premium income was £5.18 billion in the year to December 31, 1985.

The company gives warning that growth in the German insurance market will level off this year but it is more hopeful about the American market, where it says the property insurance industry is improving.

The UK transfer agents for the issue are Deutsche Bank Capital Markets, Morgan Grenfell and Rowe & Pitman.

Lloyds to seek bid extension

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Lloyds Bank admitted yesterday that it will have to ask the City Takeover Panel for a special dispensation to extend the timetable of its bid for Standard Chartered as a result of the need to satisfy US banking legislation. Standard Chartered's adviser, J Henry Schroder Wagg, will oppose the move.

Under the City rules, introduced to stop endless new offers and defences, an offer must close for acceptance unless declared unconditional 60 days after the first offer document is posted — in this case, next Saturday.

Thereafter, Lloyds would have until August 2 to satisfy or waive all other conditions and a further 21 days to pay for the Standard Chartered shares, should its bid succeed.

The US Federal Reserve Board may not rule on Lloyds' takeover of Standard Chartered's American interests, particularly the Union Bank of California, until July 16. This would not pose a great problem, provided they agree, but, under American law, it would be illegal for Lloyds to buy the Standard shares for another 30 days to allow the Justice Department to challenge the acquisition on competitive grounds.

The Justice Department has written to the Fed saying it will not object to the takeover, but the technical rules must be observed.

Lloyds will not ask the Panel for a dispensation until after the July 12 deadline,

which remains the last date for acceptance to decide whether the bid will succeed. It intends to stick to the final date for payment to Standard Chartered shareholders, but wants to delay the date for meeting all other conditions.

Mr Brian Pittman, Lloyds' chief executive, said yesterday that the problem, long identified by Standard Chartered, arose because of the clash of rules between two different regulatory authorities in different countries, one safeguarding shareholders and the other depositors, and that it would be unreasonable for Standard to challenge the verdict of shareholders should Lloyds win.

Standard Chartered intends to challenge Lloyds' request in advance of the shareholders' decision, however, seeking a ruling in principle by the Panel. Mr Michael McWilliam, Standard's managing director, said Lloyds should stick to the rules and that early delays in seeking US approval were symptomatic of Lloyds' lack of preparation and thought about its takeover. "The panel ruling is a technical matter," Mr McWilliam acknowledged.

Lloyds says it has gone through the American procedure quickly, was confident that it answered all the points the Fed had raised, and that the Californian authorities had agreed to accept the takeover as soon as federal approval had been granted.

Shake-up at HB Electronics

By Richard Lander

A group of investors led by two executives of the Holmes Protection group, an American alarm system manufacturer, is to take over the reins at HB Electronics, the USM-quoted components distribution group. HB struggled to make a profit of £1,000 last year because of depressed conditions in the electronics market.

The two men, Mr Tom Forrest and Mr Brian O'Connor, intend to diversify HB's activities into areas such as computer protection and financial leasing services. They also plan to at least double the size of the component distribution business, even though they say demand for components has remained sluggish so far this year.

Mr Forrest will become chairman of HB, to be renamed Rockwood Holdings, while Mr O'Connor will join the board along with three other new directors, including Mr Michael Seorey, former finance director of the Aitken Hume financial services group.

HB is 83 per cent owned by W Canning, the Midlands chemicals, metals and electronics group which brought it to the market in 1983. Canning plans to capitalize a £300,000 loan at 41p a share and place about 2.7 million shares with institutions at the same price.

The new investors will take up Canning's entitlement in a £733,000 rights issue.

HB shares, suspended at 76p on Thursday, rejoined at 66p yesterday and rose to 80p.

COMPUTER HORIZONS

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SYSTEMS ANALYSTS ■ PROGRAMMERS & DESIGNERS ■
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To receive further details on this fund please telephone 01-4891078 or write to Oppenheimer at 66 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AE.



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COMMODITIES

**LONDON MEAT FUTURES
EXCHANGE**

Beef Contract			
p. per cwt.			
Month	Open	Close	
Aug	183.0	183.0	
Sept	182.5	182.5	Vol

LONDON			
POTATO FUTURE			
£ per tonne			
Month	Open	Close	
Nov	110.00	107.00	
Feb	122.00	117.50	
Apr	115.00	115.50	
May	113.50	112.50	
Nov	80.00	80.00	Vol: 208

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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TEMPUS

ICI clears decks ahead of expansion drive

When a company is prepared to incur increased borrowing costs of about £1.4 million and go to the trouble of seeking the approval of the High Court, it must be serious about the need to raise its borrowing powers.

Thus, in a series of small but significant moves, Imperial Chemical Industries appears to be cleaning up its balance sheet as a prelude to stepping up the pace of acquisitions.

The group announced yesterday that holders of £9 million cumulative preference stock will be repaid at a price of 77p, plus accrued interest for each £1 of stock, well above the latest market price of 48p. The annual cost of replacing this borrowing at market rates could be about £500,000.

At the same time, ICI is planning to increase its ability to borrow money in three related moves. It intends to increase the borrowing limits contained in the articles of association, it will alter the accounting treatment of £518 million of goodwill written off in 1985, and it will propose alterations to the terms of its four outstanding sterling unsecured loan stocks.

The loan stock trust deeds contain provisions which limit the group's borrowings to the amount of the adjusted capital and reserves. ICI proposes to increase this limit to 1.75 times adjusted capital and reserves. To gain the stockholders' approval ICI plans to increase the interest payable on the four loan stocks.

The total amount of unsecured loan stock outstanding is £178 million, and the annual cost of the additional interest will be £900,000.

Distributable reserves will be increased by the change in the treatment of £518 million goodwill for the acquisition of Beatrice Companies of the US.

In 1985 this goodwill was written off against the accumulated profit and loss account. It is now proposed that it be written off instead against the share premium account.

The sanction of the court is required to write down the share premium account and

to repay the cumulative preference shareholders.

On completion of these manoeuvres, ICI's balance sheet will have the flexibility to take advantage of a variety of strategic options. While it may not have any particular target in immediate view, it is likely that the group will be looking for speciality chemicals companies.

And if Beatrice's exit multiple of 19 is anything to go by, it is easy to see why ICI, with its prospective rating of 11.5, will want to pay cash rather than shares.

Oil price trend

Since The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries broke up inconclusively last week, the price of Brent crude has headed determinedly towards \$10 a barrel. Opec is still producing more than 19 million barrels of oil a day, and there are no signs that it has the collective will to cut output in any meaningful way.

It is not easy to determine what is happening to demand for oil. Seasonally, this is the weakest time of year. And oil is still not price competitive with other fuels in many of its uses. There probably has been some increase in demand because of lower prices, but this will be at least partly offset by the lagged effect of earlier energy-saving measures still working their way through the system.

On the supply side, some oil production has been taken out of commission because of uneconomic prices, but industry sources indicate that the amounts are minimal. Since the price is expected to rise again some time, albeit not for some years, operators do not want to risk the damage that closure can cause to the oil reservoir.

Meanwhile, the industry is replenishing its depleted stocks at the rate of around two million barrels a day. Storage is plentiful and prices are cheap. But when the stores are full, and Opec continues to produce at its current rate, there seems little to stop prices plunging yet lower.

Aitken/Tranwood

Mr Nick Oppenheim's offer for Aitken Hume was never

so much a takeover bid, more a management coup. It does not really matter what his quoted Tranwood company does. (It makes women's tights actually) nor how many of its shares he offers for each Aitken stock.

In opinion poll terms, Mr Oppenheim asked Aitken shareholders: "Are you satisfied with your present management?"

So far more than half have answered "no" and judging by the ease with which Mr Oppenheim's agents swept into the market to pick up stock on Wednesday, there should be more acceptances soon.

However, that seems to have been the easiest part of the exercise. Aitken Hume the jewel in its rather tarnished crown, would lose all its business if control changed hands.

Mr Oppenheim, who maintains there would not be a change of control because Aitken shareholders would end up with 91 per cent of Tranwood, is off to New York next week to persuade NSR's independent directors that he is fit and proper man to control their company.

If Mr Oppenheim fails to sway the directors, then the deal is off and Aitken will have escaped. But the Aitken board would be unwise to break out the champagne too quickly. Its defence has been a series of blunders and bungles that can hardly inspire confidence.

The confessional-type defence document which perversely boasted of huge losses for the present year might not have been too bad had it not also revealed "huge golden parachutes" for those who would bail out if Tranwood won the day.

Aitken also seemed fairly sure that a white knight would emerge.

If the NSR factor does cause the Tranwood bid to fail, Aitken will be left with few friends at all. It will be effectively bid-proof with a majority of hostile shareholders. Its share price, already falling, is bound to reflect this.

COMPANY NEWS

● **ALFA-LAVALL:** The company is planning to acquire the Sarr Control Group from Ahlsell-Bolden.

● **BARHAM GROUP:** The company has acquired Research and Auditing Services, the consumer market research group, for £1.35 million.

● **JAYPLANT:** Agreement has been reached on the principal terms of further proposed acquisitions. Heads of agreement have been signed for the purchase of Starvillas for £3,600,000. The company has also agreed to purchase Cleghart, a property company, for £450,000 or Cleghart's net asset value.

Jayplant is also to acquire 70 per cent of Portal Homes for £700,000.

● **BRISTOL OIL & MINERALS:** No dividend for 1985. Figures in £000. Turnover 3,367 (13,080).

● **GF LOVELL:** A dividend of 3.5p (3p) has been declared for the year to April 5. Results for the year, with figures in £000, include turnover 3,554 (3,140), profit on ordinary activities before tax 147 (18), earnings per share 10.7p (2.6p).

● **KONE:** The directors have announced a revised recommended cash offer to acquire all four million ordinary shares of Biddle at 170p per share.

● **REED EXECUTIVE:** A final dividend of 3p making 4.5p (3p) is included in the results for the year to March 29. With figures in £000, pre-tax profit on ordinary activities rose to 3,551 (2,216) and earnings per share to 23.1p (12.06p).

● **TSL THERMAL SYN-DICATE:** An interim dividend of 1p (same) is included in the results to April 30. With figures in £000, group sales were down to 9,430 (9,743) and group pre-tax profit to 69 (1,279). Earnings per share fell to 4p (8.7p).

● **PREMIER CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS:** Shareholders voted at the extraordinary general meeting to acquire the oil and gas exploration interests of Burmah Oil and to issue 72 million Premier shares to Burmah, making it a 25 per cent shareholder.

● **CARLESS CAPEL & LEONARD:** The acquisition of LMS American Holdings Corporation, Drexel Oil Company and the 7,981,500 ordinary shares in The Winterbottom Energy Trust from London Merchant Securities has been completed.

● **ANGLO NORDIC HOLDINGS:** No final dividend, making 0.4p (1.4p) for year ended March 31. With figures in £000, turnover was 54,202 (54,298) and loss before tax 758 (1,315) profit. Loss per share was 4.2p (5.7p earnings). The share price was 23p, down 34p. The company has made significant writeoffs in the year to March 1986 as part of a big restructuring and reorganization.

STC climbs on speculation of ITT selling share stake

By Michael Clark

Shares of STC, the telecommunications and computer group, put in a late run yesterday climbing 10p to 166p - just 2p shy of their high - on speculation that ITT was about to sell its remaining holding in the company.

ITT, which is the world's biggest publicly quoted company, still owns 131.02 million shares (24 per cent) in STC worth an estimated £217 million. But ITT has been steadily reducing its holding in the company since 1982.

Last night the stock market was buzzing with rumours that ITT had found a single buyer for the entire stake outside the market and that an announcement would be made shortly. This led to speculation that a full bid for STC may be on the way.

Earlier this week ITT announced that it had teamed up with the French state owned telecommunications group Compagnie Francaise d'Electricite to form a joint European telecommunications group which will rank second in the world.

Dealers claim that the proceeds from the sale of the STC deal would help to finance the costs of the deal with CFE.

But last night's spokesman for ITT in Brussels told The Times that he had no knowledge of any such moves to sell the STC holding.

The rest of the equity spent a lacklustre session with Wimbledon and Henly still high on the agendas of most investors wishing to make the most of the fine weather.

Few investors were willing to open new positions ahead of another possible cut in bank base rates and with Wall Street closed for the day turnover was down to a trickle.

As a result the FT 30 share index of continued to drift

throughout the session closing 9.2 down at 1,356.5, while the broader based FT-SE 100 also lost 6.8 at 1,649.4.

However, dealers appear pleased with the market's performance this week and are confident that activity in the equity market will pick-up next week. But there are some doubts that the high level of bid activity may soon start to drop off as the number of successful defences against unwanted bids continues to

grow. Marketmen complain that this could deter other companies from making new bids. Government securities continued to advance as the scent of cheaper money continued to waft through the market. Prices at the longer end rose by more than 5% as dealers became more confident that the Bank of England will soon relent and allow interest rates to drift lower.

Nevertheless, the gilt market will no doubt have to wait until after Tuesday's money supply figures before the Bank gives to go-ahead for the next round of reductions.

Among the leaders Becham met with profit taking sliding 5p to 435p following Thursday night's seminar in London arranged by Moore Govett, the broker.

Apparently, the institutions

who had been hoping for further hints about the future from the company, came away disappointed. Courtals also came in for profit taking following its recent strong run dipping 7p to 297p.

TI Group encountered nervous selling falling 25p to 543p following a downgrading of profits by Quilter Goodison, the broker.

This weeks two big newcomers failed to attract any new support. Thames Television slipped 4p to 220p compared with the original offer price of 190p, while Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, ended just 2p dearer at 488p. That compares with Thursday's striking price of 500p.

Marier Estates, the property group, jumped 20p to 520p hoping for a bid. Earlier this week Glen International, the private investment house controlled by Mr Terry Ramsden, announced it had bought a stake of just over 3 per cent.

Marier has several exciting property ventures in hand and would present Glen with few problems financially if it decided to launch a full bid.

Crest Nicholson, the builder, held steady at 168p despite an upgrading of profits by Laing & Cruckshank, the broker, from £18 million to

Avana Group, the cakes and jams manufacturer, jumped 17p to 554p yesterday on revived bid speculation. Dealers claim Associated British Foods is about to spend some of the proceeds from the sale of Fine Fare on buying Northern Food's 20.33 per cent stake in Avana. A full bid for the rest would then follow. Avana is currently valued at £111 million.

Oil shares were a dull

market, worried by the latest weakness in the oil price on the spot market where it fell to almost \$10 a barrel. Jobbers quickly marked prices lower to deter the sellers, but there were signs of a few cheap buyers towards the close.

Hardest hit were the majors, including BP, down 5p at 578p, on suggestions that the Government may decide to sell off part of its 31 per cent holding to raise much-needed funds now that privatization of the water authorities has been postponed.

Others to lose ground included British, 7p lower at 148p, Lasso, 5p at 198p, Shell, 6p at 775p, Ultramar, 5p at 168p, while Ultramar, 5p at 168p, Enterprise on 107p and Century Oil on 144p all shed 4p.

On the Unlisted Securities Market, shares of HB Electronic Components returned from suspension and were promptly marked 12p lower at 66p while dealers worked out the effect of wide sweeping proposals put forward by the group.

These included the appointment of five new directors, rights issue to raise £733,000 net and the reduction of 3% Canning's majority holding from 83 per cent to 19 per cent.

The rights issue is on the basis of one-for-two at 35p. Shares of HB ended the day 2p firmer at 80p, while W Canning firmed 4p to 122p.

Meanwhile, shares of Parkfield Group leapt 30p to 530p after announcing three new acquisitions totalling £14.8 million. The group is paying £6.5 million for Lighting Distribution and £8.3 million for two other companies - J&B Labone and RM Fabrications. To help to finance the deal, Panmure Gordon, the broker, placed 3 million shares with various institutions at 460p a share.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		RIGHTS ISSUES	
Accord Pubs (125p)	148-1	Amari F/P	105-1
Alumac (150p)	150	Amotagosa N/P	100
Amari (130p)	118	Boase Massani F/P	23-2
Argeon (115p)	185	Costain N/P	94-6
Ashley (135p)	215-1	De La Rue N/P	180
Beaverco (145p)	148	Erskine Hae N/P	8
Bipal (374p)	43-3	Five Oaks N/P	10-1
Black (147p)	142-1	Fransky Hotels F/P	105
Borland (125p)	136	Isibook Johnson N/P	31-1
Broderick (145p)	148-2	Leigh Insurances N/P	53-2
Campbell Armstrong (110p)	100	Pharmaplan N/P	10
Charles Hays (120p)	135		
Clarke Hooper (130p)	185		
Coated Electrodes (64p)	85		
Densitron (50p)	48-1		
Eadie (35p)	112		
Evans Halshaw (120p)	125		
Fields (Mrs) (140p)	154-1		
Guthrie Corp (150p)	145		
Haggas (A) (140p)	102-3		
Hodgson (85p)	113-5		
Lomax (145p)	150-2		
Morgan Grenfell (500p)	488-2		
Smaltone (155p)	175-4		
Soundtrack (40p)	42-4		
Task Force (95p)	74		
Templeton (215p)	225		
Tenby Inds (115p)	128-9		
Thames TV (180p)	220-4		

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*THE PRICES QUOTED CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS INCLUDE FRONT AND REAR SEAT BELTS, CAR TAX AND VAT, BUT EXCLUDE DELIVERY, ROAD TAX, NUMBER PLATES AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS INDICATED. *MANUFACTURER'S FIGURES

SAAB
900 SERIES

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities lose ground

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 30. Dealings end next Friday. Settlement day July 14. Settlement day July 21.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Woolworths	Retail	
2	Chloride	Electronics	
3	Apparel	Textiles	
4	McAlpine (Africa)	Building	
5	Brown Shipley	Building	
6	Trent	Building	
7	Tilbury Group	Building	
8	Nat. Aust. B.	Banking	
9	Aus. New Z.	Banking	
10	Next	Draperies	
11	Cable & Wireless	Electronics	
12	Behaven	Electronics	
13	Fitch Lovell	Food	
14	Noton	Industrials	
15	TNT	Industrials	
16	W.S.I.	Industrials	
17	Milk Foods	Food	
18	Lakes (P.C.)	Building	
19	Stand Chart	Banking	
20	Fin. Art. Co.	Draperies	
21	Murros	Industrials	
22	Robertson Res.	Industrials	
23	Brannall (CD)	Motor Vehicle	
24	Smurfit (Jeff)	Paper Print	
25	Egerton	Property	
26	Stockdale	Industrials	
27	IMI	Industrials	
28	Davy	Industrials	
29	Utd. Newspapers	Newspaper	
30	Julliana's Hides	Leisure	
31	Low & Bonar	Industrials	
32	Bullough	Industrials	
33	Bersford (S&W)	Building	
34	Greenall-Whitely	Building	
35	Alphacarb	Electronics	
36	Wilson (Connolly)	Building	
37	Brooke Tool	Industrials	
38	Eastern Prod.	Industrials	
39	Travis & Arnold	Building	
40	Ferranti	Electronics	
41	Winnert	Banking	

Please be sure to take account of any minor signs.

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16.00 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Change %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

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BUILDINGS AND ROADS

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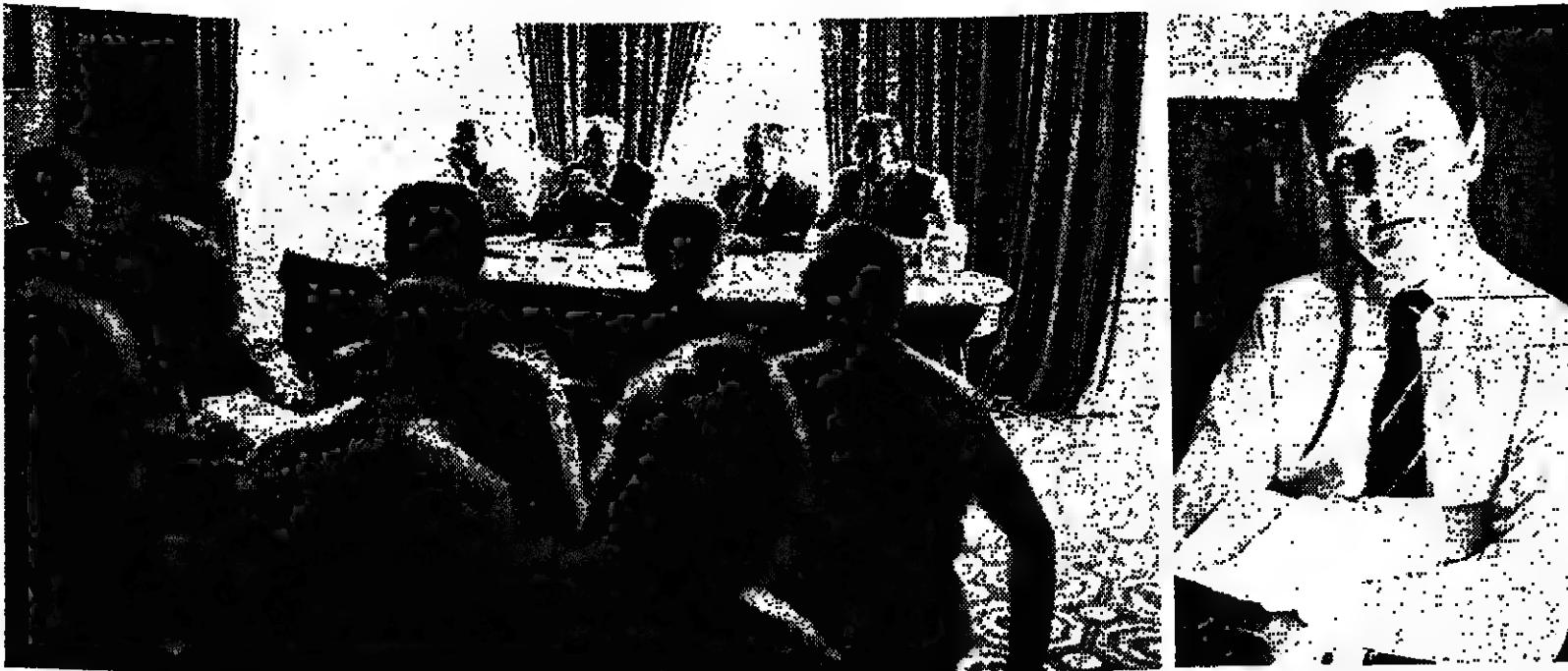
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FAMILY MONEY/1

Edited by Lorna Bourke



Meeting the creditors: Mr Rosen is far left, Mr Cooper second from right. Far right: The deeply disappointed Mr Bennett, an unsecured creditor

How Spanish dreams were dashed

Holiday dreams can be dangerous and expensive. They cost John and Elaine Bennett more than £53,000 when they fell in love with the idea of a holiday villa on the Costa del Sol.

The Bennetts approached a company trading as M&M Spanish Homes, which was offering plots and the facility to build your own property near the popular and populous resort of Marbella in Spain.

The Bennetts found the brochure attractive and the promises seductive, but today they are deeply disappointed. M&M is now in liquidation, submerged beneath a raft of bad debts, and Mr Bennett claims that the property he was promised "might as well be in Siberia or the Sahara — it's a roof and four walls over which we have no title".

This is disputed by the company. One director says Mr Bennett "has perfect title". The matter is being fought out between the lawyers.

The two working directors of M&M Spanish Homes are Gerald Rosen and Paul Cooper, whose wives were originally the only directors until early last month, well after the application to put M&M into liquidation.

Mr Rosen admits that he and Mr Cooper were shadow directors of the company, because Mr Rosen "wanted to be self-employed". Mr Rosen has piloted two other companies to insolvency, attracting press comment, and Mr Cooper was a co-director of one company.

The way M&M Spanish Homes operated and the legal position of money paid to it appeared, according to one accountant at the creditors' meeting, "completely unclear", but its commercial activities seemed quite straightforward.

Expert advice on investment projects

M&M's brochure offers a range of services, from "expert advice on any investment project" to help on the technical and practical aspects of buying or developing property in the Marbella area. The company was an estate agent-cum-property developer.

In the Bennetts' case they paid £50,000 on account, for which they got a plot of land — and a villa was to be built on it.

Mr Bennett says he is in dispute with the Spanish builder who will not release the title (over which the builder has a claim in Spanish law), and he claims the £50,000 he gave Mr Cooper did not go through a Spanish bank account. If this is the case it creates another technical problem in Spanish law.

M&M's role in the acquisition of land and development of property is not clear. Some facts, however, can be distilled from the complex web of

dealing which surrounds M&M.

A statement of affairs prepared on behalf of the company for the creditors' meeting put the amount owing to unsecured creditors at £73,030, a figure that Mr Rosen subsequently claimed should have been smaller. That statement of indebtedness did not include a number of cases such as the Bennetts' and those of other individual clients of M&M who claim to be owed money by the company.

Despite having managed three companies which failed, Mr Rosen is, in his own words, "a man of substantial wealth". He says: "I have been for some years. It's not a crime, is it?" He adds that the first company went under 23 years ago.

Mr and Mrs Bennett have handed over about £53,000 to M&M — the extra £3,000 they gave Mr Cooper was for furniture they have never seen or used — for an unfinished villa in Spain, the title of which is now in dispute.

Their initial bill from the lawyers who now represent them is a handsome £4,000.

But Mr Rosen is adamant that the majority of clients who have dealt with M&M are satisfied with the service they have received, and that Mr Bennett has had "value for money".

Mr Rosen says: "We are not

stealing clients' money." He claims M&M has dealt with 1,400 to 1,500 clients over almost 10 years.

If Mr Rosen's claim that clients are happy is true, the same cannot be said for the trade creditors. Vaughan Hartman's advertising company is owed approximately

More legal action being considered

£22,000 by M&M. Mr Hartman decided matters should be brought to a head in April. "I decided I couldn't go on. They (M&M) made promise after promise, but nothing was done," he said.

What can and will be done in this particular case remains to be seen. Some creditors are considering further legal action.

In general, however, there

are some lessons to be learned from a sad tale. Mr Bennett's biggest regret is "believing in a company which said they dealt with it all for you". He said: "I wish I'd used English lawyers from the start."

Michael Soul, an English solicitor specializing in Spanish property transactions, would agree: "People shouldn't pay money to anyone other than the owner of the property they're buying, and they can tell who the owner is by instructing a lawyer."

The Estate Agents Act 1979 requires agents to keep "clients' money" on a separate account. Unfortunately, that provision, which would make it so much easier to trace a would-be purchaser's cash, does not apply to contracts to acquire properties outside the UK. Mr and Mrs Bennett must be cursing their luck.

Martin Baker



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FAMILY MONEY/3

Tax man seals an escape route

Amendments to the 1986 Finance Bill, now going through Parliament, have clamped down on one of the more exotic forms of avoiding capital transfer tax (now renamed inheritance tax).

Under the old rules the insurer, Premium Life, was marketing the Asset Protection Plan, a scheme whereby the person with assets to shield used a form of whole life insurance policy to avoid CTT.

It worked like this. The person took out the policy but paid only one premium, usually about 5 or 6 per cent of the sum assured. The policy was put in a trust with named beneficiaries. The second premium became payable only on death and was much larger, but it could, clearly, be paid out of the assets of the estate. Once the second premium was paid, the insurance company then paid over the policy proceeds to the named beneficiaries, free of CTT. Nothing was forthcoming if the second premium was not paid from the estate.

The amendment killing off this scheme denies a deduction from the estate of a deceased person for a liability relating to a life insurance policy unless the full proceeds of that policy form part of the death estate. Clearly, Premium Life's Asset Protection Plan would not meet that requirement.

The new rule came into force for all policies issued on or after July 1, 1986. The position of those who took out policies before that date remains unclear.

"Our understanding was that the scheme worked under the old rules," said Peter Connor, of Premium Life. "We took the view that the Asset Protection Plan was no more offensive to the Revenue than other CTT avoidance schemes such as the discounted gift scheme."

Other insurance companies say they decided not to issue similar policies because their legal advice was that the scheme probably wouldn't work.

So far the Revenue has not challenged any of Premium Life's existing Asset Protection Plan holders who may therefore, have got under the CTT net.

LB

One decibel below a grant

PROPERTY

The next time you are driving on the M25 thinking how easy it now is to circle London, spare a thought for the thousands of home-owners whose lives have been made a financial and emotional nightmare by the noise from this £1,000 million orbital road.

In 1976 David and Iris Bennett bought a detached house, today worth about £100,000, in New Haw, Surrey. They chose the location, "for some peace and quiet", when Mr Bennett was discharged from the police force after a serious road accident.

But their dreams of a quiet retirement have now been well and truly shattered. The M25 has been built about 200 metres from their home. The view they now have from their bedroom window is of lorries and cars hurtling along the elevated section of the road.

Mr Bennett, who is now registered as disabled, said: "Since the motorway was built there is a constant roaring noise. I have had to install double glazing for health reasons. It cost me over £4,000 and the Department of Transport is refusing to offer me a grant for it."

"It does not seem fair as my next-door neighbour has been offered a grant and the distance between our houses is only about 12 feet."

You would think that being 200 metres from the busiest stretch of the entire motorway, the Bennetts would automatically qualify for insulation against traffic noise. But you would be wrong.

There are two conditions for qualifying for insulation. The Bennetts' home meets the distance criterion - of being within 300 metres of the motorway - but according to the Department of Transport

"The difference is imperceptible"

the noise level at the property is not sufficient to qualify.

The specified level of noise must, in simple terms, equal or exceed 68 decibels over a particular time period. The Department of Transport calculations for noise levels on different sides of the Bennetts' house, varied from the lowest of 64 decibels to 67 decibels - just one decibel below the limit.

A chartered surveyor, Robert Turner, of Cubitt and West, explained the significance of the readings: "A



Home, sweet home: For the Bennetts the M25 turned peace into traffic roar

difference of one decibel is imperceptible to the human ear. The whole law of noise insulation really requires an overhaul. The noise level at the magic figure of 68 is awful."

A spokesman for Runnymede Council, the local authority that acts as agent for the Department of Transport in organizing the insulation, agreed: "The regulations are very hard. The qualifying level is far above what most people would find acceptable. In many offices a lot of typewriters clattering all day long would register levels in the low 60s."

"The adjacent houses to the Bennetts' have had offers of some measure of insulation. There is the first house that has not been included. You have got to draw the line somewhere."

Mr and Mrs Bennett appealed against the department's decision but their appeal was rejected. The department's spokesman

commented: "Mr and Mrs Bennett appealed against the decision and the department sent an expert down to the property to measure the noise. He concluded that the noise was not up to the necessary level."

"It has all been explained to them in a letter. If we started

"Compensation rules are far less strict"

paying out for noise levels of 67, people with levels of 66 would start complaining."

They are not going to give up the fight for financial assistance for the double glazing. Mr Bennett explained: "I do not expect all of my £4,000

But help with insulation is not the only avenue open to home owners whose properties are affected by new roads. The 1973 Land Compensation Act allows claims for compensation for depreciation in the value of property from noise.

Robert Turner, who has already settled 1,150 claims for compensation on this stretch of the motorway, said: "Fewer than 3 per cent of my clients who were successful in getting compensation for loss of value will get help with double glazing."

"The rules for compensation are far less strict. There is no requirement for decibel readings or distance limit. It is purely a subjective argument on the loss of value."

"You could have a million-pound property one mile away from the motorway where a buzz in the background would affect the value. But a two-up, two-down terrace property which could be much nearer would be valued differently."

Mr and Mrs Bennett have recently been offered £1,650 compensation but as Mr Turner explained: "They are waiting for the dust to settle before deciding whether to accept."

Susan Fieldman

Figures to prove trust

There are statistics to prove that some unit trust managers are better than others.

According to the latest figures from *Planned Savings* magazine, fund managers such as Edinburgh Fund Managers, GT, Mercury, Schroder, Prolific, Barrington, Perpetual, Henderson, Gartmore and Framlington have on average performed better than other groups in the last year.

Longer term, groups such as GT, Prolific and Perpetual have consistently turned in a better-than-average performance.

The statistics are based on the value of £100 invested over various periods in the funds of the individual groups. In reality, of course, you would not be able to spread an investment as small as £100 between unit trusts. The figures are weighted to take account of the size of each fund, and 30 groups are monitored.

Perpetual has the most impressive track record, hitting the top spot over the 10-year, nine-year, eight-year and five-year periods, with two second places, one third, one fourth and one seventh. GT is a close runner-up, never having been lower than 12 and with several top positions to its credit.

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M&G SECOND GENERAL 30TH BIRTHDAY

Over the last thirty years you probably could not have held a unit trust with a better performance than M&G SECOND GENERAL. £1,000 invested at its launch in June 1956 would now be worth £67,208 with all income reinvested, compared with £8,104 from a similar investment in a building society. To have maintained its purchasing power over the period, £1,000 would need to have grown to £8,748.

The British Stockmarket has been strong for a number of years, which is why many investors are now looking at overseas markets for new investment opportunities. But concentration in one particular area can produce very volatile investment results, and this year's high flier can often be next year's poor performer. You should be wary of short-term performance claims, such as the "Over 50% growth in just five months" quoted recently for a European unit trust.

M&G has two International Funds which solve the problem by spreading your investment effectively among the major stockmarkets of the world.

The M&G International Income Fund aims to provide a high income, and one that can be expected to increase over the years, from an international portfolio of equities.

The M&G International Growth Fund aims for all-out capital growth by investing in the major stockmarkets of the world.

If you remain optimistic about the British Stockmarket and want a balanced portfolio, look at M&G SECOND GENERAL, which aims for consistent growth of income and capital from a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies.

FURTHER INFORMATION On 2nd July 1986 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
International Income	59.5p	61.1p	4.98%
International Growth	78.5p	124.7p	1.77%
SECOND GENERAL	78.5p	149.7p	3.43%

The prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The difference between offered price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell) is normally 0.1p. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price (except for units bought on or after 1st July 1986, when the charge is 4%). The charge of up to 1% of each fund's value, currently 0.5%, is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	International Income	International Growth	SECOND
Distributions	1 June	20 Mar	15 Feb
	1 Dec	20 Sep	15 Aug
Next distribution for new investors	1 Dec 1986	20 Sep 1987	15 Feb 1987

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Redemption is payable to accepted agents; rates are later. Remuneration is payable to the Trustee for International Growth is available on request. The Trustee for International Growth is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for the International Income and SECOND GENERAL is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4588. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

Date	M&G SECOND	F.T. Ordinary Index	Building Society
5 June '56	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
31 Dec '66	£2,996	£2,472	£1,699
31 Dec '76	£7,812	£3,859	£3,437
5 June '86	£67,208	£21,042	£8,104

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 1 1/2% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND GENERAL figures are realisation values.

To celebrate M&G SECOND's thirty-year performance record we are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more in any of these three unit trusts before 31st October 1986.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value on 1st June 1986 of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G's two International Funds.			
	Launch Date	M&G Unit Trust	Building Society
International Income	May '85	£11.66	£1.127
International Growth	Dec '67	£11.517	£4.507

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 1 1/2% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G figures are realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 31st OCTOBER

All applications for £1,000 or more received by 31st October, 1986 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units, increasing to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund. To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION or INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for International Growth and SECOND and Income units will be issued for International Income at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

International Income (MIN £1,000)	£	-00
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International Growth (MIN £1,000)	£	-00

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FAMILY MONEY/4

£100m for mortgages

Building societies, banks, and lately life and pensions offices have been displaying Boy Scout eagerness to pump money into the mortgage market.

The latest and freshest face is Allied Dunbar, the unit-linked life and pensions office. Allied Dunbar Home Loans aims to lend more than £100 million in its first year. Larger loans are treated favourably. Anything more than £75,000 is lent at 10.5 per cent — around 11.2 per cent as an annual percentage rate. Loans are, of course, of the endowment or pension type.

Other, more established lenders are trying to remain competitive. The Mortgage Corporation, backed by the American investment bank Salomon Brothers, has cut the rate charged on its endowment loans to 10.25 per cent. This is consistent with its stated intention of undercutting the market.

Financial intermediaries Fairchild's have negotiated £10 million of mortgage funds at 10.5 per cent from National Bank of Australia, though the rate charged is "variable".

Details: Allied Dunbar 0793 28291; Fairchild's — 01-839 3182; Mortgage Corporation 01-834 8444.

Cheques charge doubled

Both Midland and Lloyds Banks on Tuesday doubled the counter charges for cashing cheques for customers of other banks. Neither bank made any announcement of the decision. The cost is now £1 per cheque, while Barclays levies 75p and National Westminster makes non-customers pay 50p per transaction. "We are defending our customers' interests. We want to discourage other banks' customers from using our branches and impairing the service we give to our customers," said a Midland spokesman. "We are protecting our customers," echoed the man from Barclays.

The Midland added a darker, almost apocalyptic, tone to the affair with a comment worthy of a warning sign: "We want to maintain our deterrent. In true cold war style, he then highlighted the simultaneous increase from Lloyds, which he blamed for the Midland increase.

Although it is heartening to know of the banks' concern for our welfare, it surely is rather irksome to have to pay a fee which would amount to a 4 per cent transaction charge on a cheque of £25.

Free cover

Free accident insurance for travel to and from work or on holiday is provided free to National Westminster Access cardholders. Provided the fare is paid through Access, cardholders are protected free of charge.

against accidents anywhere in the world while boarding, travelling in, disembarking from and making a connection between any licensed passenger-carrying services or any car hired for a period not exceeding 30 days. The benefit is £50,000 on accidental death, loss of sight in one or both eyes, loss of a limb, or permanent total disablement. A spouse and dependent children under the age of 23 are also covered provided Access is used to pay for all or part of the fares.

There is no need to fill in a proposal form and if you are unfortunate enough to have a claim you simply send in the sales voucher for the tickets purchased.

£10 incentive

Lloyds Bank is offering £10 cash to first-year students who open a current account by the end of October — £2 more than last year. In addition, the Lloyds student loan package includes an overdraft of up to £200, a cheque book, a Cashpoint card and cheque guarantee card, and an Access card with a £200 credit limit. Meanwhile, the bank's Higher Education Loan offers parents a borrowing facility of up to £2,000 a year at concessionary rates to help fund their youngsters' education.

Facts of death

Amazingly, many people like to plan their own funerals in advance — paying the funeral director, for instance, or saving up for a decent wake through an insurance scheme. Age Concern says this certainly happens, and is offering a free fact sheet to help



them. Age Concern believes one of the worst things about bereavement is coping with the practicalities, such as the funeral and registering the death. Its fact sheet gives comprehensive advice on what to do about these and other problems — claiming the death grant, for instance. All useful stuff, and you can get it by sending a large stamped addressed envelope marked "Funerals Factsheet" to 60 Piccadilly Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3LL.

Customer's perk

The current battle for mortgage business is producing some interesting spin-offs for home-buyers. The Cheshire Building Society is giving a Guaranteed Mortgage Card to borrowers who have been with the society for two years. This guarantees them a mortgage at any time in the future, but the really useful perk is a 50 per cent discount, worth up to £50, on their valuation fee when they apply for the next loan.

Just for expats

The updated version of the Allied Dunbar Expatriate Tax and Investment Guide is published this week, and is available in most bookshops at £3.50. The second edition contains details of the new inheritance tax, the phasing-out of foreign earnings deductions and the effects of anti-avoidance measures, as well as a guide to the do's and don'ts of going abroad and returning home.

Foreign choice

International situations are not diplomatic incidents, footballing clashes, or clips from Dallas. They are investment opportunities, according to Hambros Unit Trust Managers. The Hambros International Situations Trust can invest just about anywhere in the world, and will do so if the occasion arises. The managers say they will pay particular attention to the expected strength of the currency in which a particular security is denominated. Investors in Japan will remember that a year ago the prices of Japanese unit trusts were falling, even though the Nikkei Dow average was hitting record peaks. Currency management is rare among unit trusts.

Units are offered at a fixed price of 50p until July 15. The minimum investment is £1,000.

Buying Spanish

Just out: *Buying Property in Spain*, the latest publication from accountants Clark Whitehill. The firm has specialised in this area and has offices in both Marbella and Malaga, where British expatriates living in Spain can get tax advice.



The booklet covers the restrictions on purchases of property by foreigners, the contract, raising the finance, exchange control, costs and taxes, and all the detail associated with buying property in Spain. The booklet is available free from Clark Whitehill, 25 New Street Square, London ECA 4 3LN (01-353 1577).

More credit

Barclaycard is raising the limit on the amount of cash obtainable on its Premier Card from £100 a day to £250. The card can be used at nearly 15,000 cash dispensers in 20 countries throughout the world. The card, like other premium cards, is aimed at higher earners, those with an annual income of at least £20,000. There is no pre-set spending limit and cardholders can obtain a minimum unsecured overdraft of £7,500 at 2.5 per cent over bank base rate. Joining fee is £10 and there is an annual subscription fee of £40. Details from Barclays Bank branches.

Out of date

The tax system as it affects husband and wife is in need of reform, said the Treasury minister Peter Brooke, at an exhibition for women entrepreneurs. He said: "The present system is not appropriate for modern times. Many of you will have experienced the absurdity that a married woman has no right to privacy in tax matters, and cannot fill in her own tax return, even if she runs her own business."

As one such businesswoman commented, "The law implies that I am capable of running my own business, which handles tax affairs, but not capable of running my own tax affairs." The Government published a Green Paper on the taxation of husband and wife at the time of the Budget and is asking for views from interested parties.

Pupils' peril

Schoolchildren could be subjected to subtle advertising as a result of the shortage of cash for new textbooks, warned Michael Montague, chairman of the National Consumer Council. "Schools starved of funds for textbooks are eagerly using instead educational material produced for schools by industry and commerce."

The time has come for guidelines about control of the content to ensure that children are not subjected to glorified advertising," he said. In the area of finance children are particularly vulnerable as the institutions have plenty of spare cash to produce educational material.

Pension facts you must be given

PENSIONS

Regulations covering the compulsory disclosure of information to pension fund members have been published this week and come into force from November 1.

From that date your employer will have to provide certain information regarding the pension scheme and your benefits, automatically — with additional information available on request.

You will have the right to information on your company pension scheme, including conditions of membership, eligibility, contribution levels and how they are calculated, benefits, and other details within 12 weeks of joining a company.

At retirement age you will be automatically entitled to a statement of benefits and if you die before retirement age, dependents or other beneficiaries are equally entitled to know what the death-in-service benefits are, and who is eligible.

Many pension schemes, particularly the large ones, provide this information already, although some of the booklets produced to describe the scheme to new employees leave a lot to be desired in terms of the amount of detail given and the clarity with which the scheme is explained. But employees who are in a scheme which is wound up have new rights under the regulations.

They will be legally entitled to a statement of their benefits and must be told where they can get further information once the scheme has been formally wound up.

The new regulations also give employees the right to a statement of benefits once a year; but this will not be given automatically, you will have to make a request.

Similarly, if you change jobs, your former pension scheme must inform you of your benefit entitlement, rights, and options.

The best pension schemes already provide annual benefit statements and explanatory literature on how the scheme works. But there are thousands of small pension schemes which provide little or nothing in the way of information.

For example, few pension schemes bother to let former members (job-changers) know what their deferred-pension entitlement is once the em-



ployee has left the company. Corinne Serjeant, of the National Association of Pension Funds, said: "A lot of pension funds are having to face up to a number of changes."

The association, which represents most of the leading pension funds, has a code of conduct for the disclosure of information and it also runs the Golden Pen awards for companies that produce the best pension scheme annual reports and accounts.

Companies that have won the award or been runners-up include Metal Box, Rank Hovis McDougall, British Telecom, The Post Office, Reed, International, British Oxygen, Airways Pension Scheme, National Coal Board, Tate & Lyle, Debenhams, Fisons and TI.

LB

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CYCLING: TOUR DE FRANCE

Dutch protest on first day

From John Wilcockson, Paris

In the context of 2,560 miles of racing over 23 days, a time trial of 2.9 miles lasting less than six minutes does not count for much, but the prestige of winning the prologue stage of the Tour de France is significant. That is why yesterday Peter Post, the wily Dutch manager of the Panasonic team, made a strong protest when his protégé, Eric Vanderaerden, of Belgium, finished second, only half a second slower than the declared winner, Thierry Marie, of France.

Marie was presented with the first yellow jersey, but it was not until 90 minutes before the 23-year-old from the Calvados region of Normandy was confirmed as the first leader of the 73rd edition of the Tour de France.

The jury of appeal decided that although Marie's low profile bicycle had a plastic aerofit fitted to the back of the saddle, it was permissible under regulation 49 of the Union Cycliste Internationale.

Cyrille Guimard, Marie's

team coach, explained why the device had been fitted. He said: "Thierry had a problem last year. He was sliding forward on his saddle when he rode a time trial. We fitted the support to hold him in place." This seemed curious because a back stop would not stop the rider from sliding forward.

Post's second complaint was a less formal one. It concerned another Dutchman, Gerrie Knetemann, who started his time trial one minute ahead of Marie. As Knetemann revved down a starting ramp he pulled loose his rear wheel. He had to stop to tighten it and tighten it. Just as he got back into full flight, he was joined by Marie. About a mile of the hexagonal shaped circuit remained, and the Frenchman clearly benefited from latching on to the Dutchman, who is a noted expert at prologue time trials. But, again, the protest was dismissed.

The jury perhaps took into account the fact that Marie also won the prologue stage of the Tour of Spain two months

ago. His victory yesterday was particularly satisfying for Guimard, who has been criticized for the weakness of his team, which supports one of the race favourites, Laurent Fignon.

Fignon himself, placed seventh yesterday, two seconds behind his great French rival Bernard Hinault, the 31-year-old from Brittany who is chasing a record sixth Tour de France victory.

Hinault was an excellent third yesterday, also two seconds ahead of Greg LeMond, his American team mate. LeMond, still sweating from his fierce effort, said: "That was too short for me. I would like to have been the best on the team, just to show that I am as good as Hinault."

Today a 35-mile team time trial will almost certainly cause a shake-up in the positions established. There is an fascinating possibility that Sean Yates from Sussex, who was brought into the Peugeot team at the last minute, could become the second English-

man in Tour de France history to earn a yellow jersey.

Yates came an excellent twelfth yesterday on a circuit that is only 300 yards away from the flat where he lived during his period in Paris as an amateur. He is only six seconds behind Marie and a victory by his team today is a strong possibility.

Robert Millar, of Scotland, who has great pretensions for winning this year, got away to a good start, finishing only 14 seconds behind Hinault but, more significantly, eight seconds ahead of Luis Herrera, the Colombian who has also been tipped for victory.

PROLOGUE TIME TRIAL: 4.6 kilometres (2.9 miles): 1. T. Marie (Fr), 5min 21.06; 2. E. Vanderaerden (Bel), 52.1.57; 3. S. Hinault (Fr), 52.2.57; 4. J. Vanderaerden (Bel), 52.4.36; 5. J. Nijdam (Neth), 52.4.41; 6. D. Gaigne (Fr), 52.4.54; 7. L. Fignon (Fr), 52.5.21; 8. G. LeMond (US), 52.5.57; 9. J. Blanco (Sp), 52.6.72; 10. J. Bernard (Fr), 52.6.89; 11. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8. British and Irish racers: 10. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 11. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 12. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 13. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 14. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 15. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 16. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 17. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 18. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 19. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 20. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 21. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 22. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 23. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 24. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 25. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 26. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 27. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 28. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 29. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 30. S. Yates (GB), 52.7.8; 31. S. 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Sunday

TV-AM

CHANNEL 4

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Wake Up London, with the Vicious Boys **9.35** Woody and Friends: Cartoons
9.45 Roger Ramjet

10.00 Morning Worship, Mass from St Francis Roman Catholic Church, Nailsea, Avon **11.00** If you have so few disabled people taken advantage of the government-backed scheme to provide cars for disabled people? **11.30** Live and Learn. Bill Kerr Elliott assesses the benefits of adult residential care courses

12.00 Jobwatch examines an aspect of adult training **12.30** Take 30. How the Irish community in Britain keeps alive the traditional Irish dance **1.00** Robson & The Smurfs, (r)

1.30 Revelations, Eric Bibb

talks to Terry Scott. **2.00**
Survival of the Fittest. The
 Britvic 55 Challenge.

2.30 **LWT** News headlines
 followed by film
Equinox (1986) starring
 Gregory Peck and Sophia
 Loren. A thriller about an
 Oxford professor who is
 contracted by an oil
 magnate to translate
 hieroglyphics, but he
 finds himself imprisoned
 in a jail's homy
 Directed by Stanley
 Donen.

4.30 **The Campbells.** Episode
 one of a two-part
 adventure that begins with
 John being kidnapped by a
 band of Iroquois Indians.

5.00 **Midday.** (Oral)
Now You See It. General
 knowledge game show.

6.30 **News.**

- 6.40 Appeal by Julian Pettifer, on behalf of LEPPA.
- 6.45 Interview, by Sir Harry Secombe visits Bradford.
- 7.15 Winner Takes All. General knowledge gambling quiz.
- 7.45 Interview, by Sir Harry Secombe attempt on Stephanie's life is made when out riding. (Oracle)
- 9.25 The Real World: Go for Gold. An investigation of the claims of Professor Tom Gold who believes the long answer to the world's energy problem. (Oracle)
- 9.50 The Jimmy Young Television Programme. The first of a new series in which Jimmy Young, his audience, and guests discuss topical subjects. Tonight South Africa. The programme includes a live, link-up interview with Zubeida's President Kauda.

11.10 LWT News headlines followed by The Irish Rm. Major Yeates learns another trick or two from Flurry Knox. (r)
12.05 Night Thoughts.

feminism in the 1980s.
9.30 Law in Action with Joshua Rozenberg. **9.55** Weather; Travel.
10.00 News
10.15 The Sunday Feature: Jesus Came to Ding Dong. Gerald Priestland explores the legend that Jesus visited the site of the ancient tin mine of Ding Dong near Land's End. Before the Ending of the Day. Compile sung by BBC singers (s)

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Regional IV: on facing page

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the film's title, name and address. With Mary Astor, Peter Lorre and Sydney Greenstreet. Directed by John Huston, the first of a season of his films. Ends at 12.50.

11.15 In Committee. The work of Parliament's Select Committees.

12.00 Weather. 12.33 Shipping.

VHF (available in England and S Wales only) as above except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel. 7.00-8.00 Open University; 7.00 Maths Foundation Tutorial; 7.29 News and the 10.00 Affair.

7.40 Social Sciences: Grapevine. 4.00-6.00 Options: 4.00 Caribbean Focus.

subsequent being a sabotage. His investigations lead to the uncovering of a German spy-ring. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Ends at 12.20.

4.30 Looking Into Europe. 5.00 Worldmakers. 5.30 Get By in Portuguese.

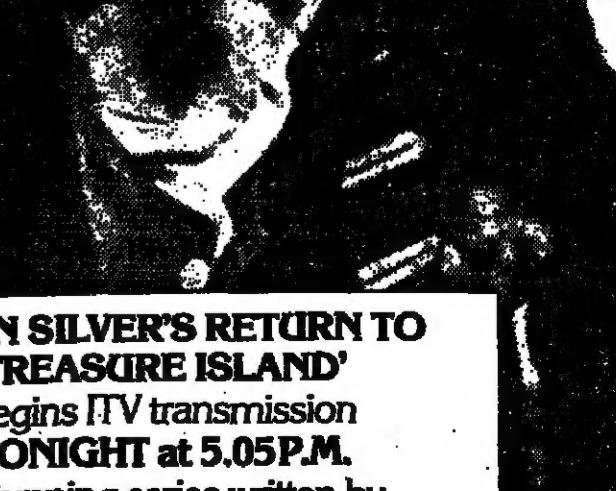
Radio 3

On medium wave, VHF variations and 8.55


7.00 News

7.05 Occasional Mozart: Mozart (Serenade in G, K.540; Six German Dances, 505; Divertimento in E

Continued on facing page



**N SILVER'S RETURN TO
TREASURE ISLAND'**
begins TV transmission
ONIGHT at 5.05P.M.
...umping series written by

**ANOTHER
EXCEPTIONAL
Drama FROM** 

**Willing retrospective at
Whitechapel Gallery,**

London, and the new film
Runaway Train

Radio 2

On medium wave. See Radio 1
for VHF variations.

News on the hours until
1.00pm, then 3.00, 6.00, 7.00 and
hourly from 10.00. Headlines
6.30am, 7.30. Sports Desks
11.02am, 10.02pm. Cricket
Scoreboard 7.30pm.

4.00am Dave Bussey (s) 6.00
Steve Turliove (s) 8.05 David
Jacobus (s) 10.00 Sounds of the
60s (s) 11.00 Album Time with
Peter Clayton (s) 1.00pm

Barrymore PLUS FOR Starring
Barrymore Plus More 1-30
Wimbledon 65 Ladies' Singles
Final, Cricket: Third Cornish
Test (England v India), Racing from
Sandown Park: 2.55 / 185,000
Cardi Eclipse Sables 1,000 Thresh in
a flow, Touring general
knowledge quiz, from the Island
Hall, Serk 7.30 Gale Concert
from Bexhill. Recorded last
September as part of the
Annual Festival of Light Music 9.30
String Sound (s) 10.05
International Athletics: The Bislett
Games 10.30 Marjann Kohn (s)
(Joining VHF) 12.05am Night Cwts
with the 12.05am Night Cwts
Chassis presents Nightridge (s) 3.00-
4.00 A Little Night Music (s).

Radio 1

News on the half-hour
12.30pm, then 2.00, 3.00, 5.30,
7.30, 9.30, 11.00 midweek
12.30pm, then 2.00, 3.00, 5.30, Peter
Gibson's Morning News, 6.00, Peter

Power 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 1.00
Adrienne Justice (c) 2.00 My Topic
Ten. Mark Page of The Alarm talks
 with **Adrian Pople** (c) 3.00 The
Discos from **London** to **London** from
New York, with **Gary Byrd** 5.00
Saturday Live (c) 6.30 In concert
 featuring **Imagination** (c) 7.30
Simon Mayo 8.30-12.0 The
Midnight Rumors Show (with
 Dixie Pople), **VH1 Radio** 1.00-2:
Good Sound 3.00 News, **5.00** Review
 of **British Press** 5.15 World Today, **5.30**
Financial News, **9.00** Look Ahead, **9.45**
 About Britain, **10.00** News, **10.30** The
 World Service. **AT 0700**

People and Politics, 11:00 News, 11:06 Sportsweek
News about Britain, 11:15 Sportsweek
11:30 Middlesday, 12:00 Radio Newsworld
12:05 The Daily Army Closes, 12:50 Sportsweek
12:58 Newsround, 1:00 News, 1:09 Saturday
Special, 2:00 News, 2:01 Saturday Special
Child, 3:00 Radio Newsworld, 3:15 Saturday
Special, 3:30 News, 3:31 Saturday Special
Child, 4:45 Sports Round, 5:00 News
6:00 Ten Four Hours, 6:30 Jazz for the
Asking, 7:00 News, 8:01 Sportsweek
8:05 The Daily Army Closes, 9:00 Sportsweek
10:00 News, 10:58 From our own
Correspondent, 10:30 News Ideas, 10:40
Reflections, 10:45 Sports Round, 10:46
The Daily Army Closes, 11:00 Sportsweek
11:30 News, 11:30 Hollywood's Oscar Highlights
12:00 News, 12:05 News about Britain,
12:15 Radio Newsworld, 12:30 Better Hall of
Fame, 12:45 News, 12:50 Sportsweek
About Nothing, 2:00 News, 2:09 Radio Newsworld
Album Time, 2:15 Sports Week, 2:30
British Press, 3:00 News, 3:09 News about
Britain, 3:15 Sportsweek, 3:30 News
about Britain, 3:31 Sportsweek, 3:45
Sport, 4:45 Reflections, 4:50 Factualities
Round, 5:00 News, 5:09 Ten Four Hours
News, 5:45 Letter from America, All news
in GMT.

Regional IV: on facing page

12.05 Night Thoughts.

feminism in the 1960s.
9.30 *Law in Action* with
 Joshua Rozenberg. **9.55**
Weather; *Travel*.
10.00 *News*.
10.15 *The Sunday Feature*:
 Jesus Came to Ding
 Dong. Gerald Priestland
 explores the legend that
 Jesus visited the site of the
 ancient tin mine of Ding
 Dong near Land's End.
11.00 *Before the Ending of the*
Day. *Compline* sung by
 BBC singers (s)

**That one-
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than ever**




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11.15 In Committee. The work of Parliament's Select Committees.

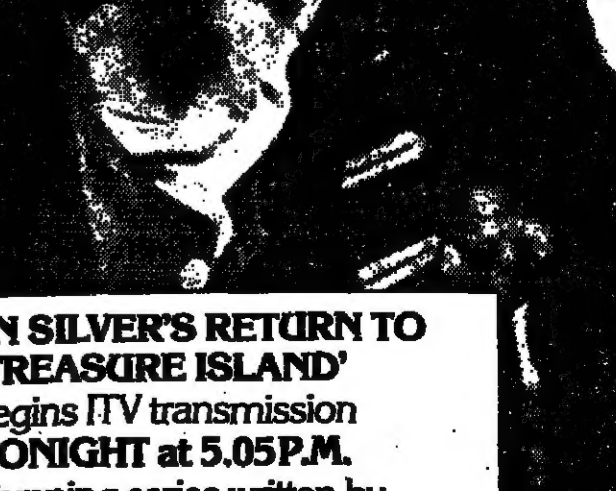
12.00 News; Weather. 12.30 Shipping (available in England and S Wales only) as above except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel: 7.00-8.00 Open University; 7.00 Maths Foundation Tutorial; 7.29 News and the Culture Award; 7.40 Social Sciences; Grapevine; 4.00-5.00 Options; 4.00 Caribbean Focus.

4.30 Looking Into Europe.
5.00 Worldmakers. 5.30 Get By In Portuguese.

Radio 3

On medium wave, VHF variations and
8.55
7.05 Weather. 7.00 News
7.05 Occasional Mozart:
Mozart (German in G,
K525; St Germande Dances,
505; Divertimento in B

Continued on facing page



**N SILVER'S RETURN TO
TREASURE ISLAND'**
begins TV transmission
ONIGHT at 5.05P.M.
...umping series written by

**ANOTHER
EXCEPTIONAL
Drama FROM** 

**That one-legged pirate is back—
more deadly and cunning
than ever!**

'JOHN SILVER'S RETURN TO TREASURE ISLAND'
begins ITV transmission
TONIGHT at 5.05 P.M.

A stunning series written by John Goldsmith as a sequel to the Stevenson classic and filmed in the Caribbean.

**rian Blessed, Christopher Guard
and Kenneth Colley
head an outstanding cast.**

**ANOTHER
EXCEPTIONAL
DRAMA FROM**

ASSOCIATION WITH PRIMETIME TELEVISION

7

SPORT

Gatting done little justice by his bowlers

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

EDGBASTON: India, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 208 runs behind England.

It was no longer bright and beautiful at Edgbaston yesterday, but the series with India, sponsored by Cornhill, continued to produce some worthwhile cricket. After two days of the third Test match India are 183 for three in reply to England's 390.

India would have settled for this, I imagine, when they went in. Not since England beat Australia at the Oval last summer had they made as good a total, but the bowling they followed it up with was undistinguished and bordering at times on the ragged. It is curious in an age when contentment is so often the order of the day that they are not more accurate. It is far too soon to rule out an English victory, but to achieve one they will need to bowl to a fuller length than they did yesterday. Anything short is meat and drink on this pitch to Indian batsmen of this calibre.

There was a certain irony about the morning's play. Had it been as dark on Thursday, when England were beginning their innings, the umpires offer to come off for bad light would have been accepted, and there would have been no play; and if India had been beating they would not doubt have taken the chance to come off. As it was, because it suited England to go on batting, we had a full morning's cricket, and it is unlikely that the batsmen were in any way incommoded. In the two

hours before lunch India, with their backs to the wall, bowled only 26 overs, while England scored 74 runs for the loss of Foster, Edmonds and French.

By the time Radford was last out, in the first over of the afternoon, Gatting had been batting for six and a half hours (or 294 balls) and made a fine score. I was much reminded of the Gentlemen and Players

had called the tune and played wonderfully well. India were batting by two o'clock and soon rattling along. You never quite know how Gavaskar is going to bat these days. With Srikanth as his partner he sometimes likes to show that he, too, has all the shots. That is as it was now, so that after 10 overs India were 30 for no wicket. Radford must have wondered what had hit him. His first three overs cost 24 runs, his first five 34. Gavaskar taking three successive fours off him and Srikanth flourishing his bat like a penny cane.

There was a difficult diving chance at Athey at cover point off Radford, given by Gavaskar, and it was Radford who got rid of Srikanth, Pringle taking a nice catch at first slip. Three overs later, with only five runs added, Gavaskar entirely misjudged the line of a ball from Pringle. He played no stroke and back went him off stump. Pringle had now had a hand in the fall of seven of India's last eight wickets, here and at Headingley.

Radford may have been trying to bowl too fast. He was not brought in to frighten the batsmen out but to bowl straight and to pitch the ball up. It was some time before he did so. Foster also bowled too short and, although the ball would turn, it did so only slowly. And the Indians are used to that.

Amarnath and Vengaskar, playing competently, had added 80, the last few of them in fitful sunshine, when Vengaskar drove at Radford

and Gooch, diving to his right at second slip, held an excellent catch. Any side would have been pleased to play through the last hour after that with the confidence and patience of Amarnath and the wicket-keeper (bruised hand) and Kevin Jarvis, fast bowler (neck), have late fitness issue. If Marsh is unfit it will mean a first class debut for Paul Farbrace, aged 18, who substituted for him in Somerset's second innings in the game which finished at Maidstone yesterday.

Kent have doubts about four players for their county championship match against Derbyshire at Derby today. Graham Dilley, the England fast bowler (tooth abscess), Richard Ellison, the England all-rounder (ankle) Steve Marsh, wicket-keeper (bruised hand)

and Kevin Jarvis, fast bowler (neck), have late fitness issue. If Marsh is unfit it will mean a first class debut for Paul Farbrace, aged 18, who substituted for him in Somerset's second innings in the game which finished at Maidstone yesterday.

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Captain courageous: Gatting struck by a ball from Kapil Dev during his 183 not out (Photograph: Chris Harris)

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Becker power is too much for Leconte

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Henri Leconte, on his 23rd birthday, played a game of tennis that he will want to forget but never will. The mighty Boris Becker, Wimbledon champion, was looking weary in body and mind as they swung into the fourth set of their semi-final yesterday. For the first time Leconte seemed the fitter man. But in the fourth game Becker was thrice lucky; and a break to 3-1 gave him what turned out to be a decisive advantage. Becker won 6-2, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 in two hours and 24 minutes.

In that critical game, a passing shot by Becker bounced conveniently (for him) off the net cord. Then a blocked service return based on hope rather than confidence drifted lazily through the air like a hesitant butterfly before perching on a distant line. That gave Becker a break point and Leconte, ignoring the birthday conventions, promptly served a double fault that presented the game to Becker.

Leconte served seven double faults and 11 aces, and Becker eight double faults and 13 aces (plus three times as many services that never game back to him). For almost three sets the power of Becker's serving was such that John Newcombe, up in the stands, described it as "frightening".

But for the fact that Leconte was not standing in the way, Becker would have risked a charge of inflicting previous bodily harm. Often Leconte, stooping to receive, merely watched the ball go by. Even more often, he gasped and lunged and somehow deflected the ball with the frame or outstrings of the racket. One had the impression that his hair was fluttering in the draft.

Becker was returning service better, too, especially on the backhand. His anticipation and reactions were sharper than Leconte's, his racket handling more assured. He was quick to profit from anything but the best of services and noise. Mentally and technically, this was awesome and almost flawless grass court tennis.

Poor Leconte, given an encouraging yell from the crowd, beckoned the spectator down to the court and offered the loan of his racket (which should, by that time, have been in tatters). There were sporadic rallies, the forked lightning of tennis. Leconte occasionally raised a clenched fist when he had come off well — or cried "Allez!" when he thought he had hit a winner. At the heart of the third set Becker produced his familiar imitation of a man cycling down a cobbled street without a bicycle.

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Goodwill Games given an uppercut

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The 17-day Goodwill Games, which are designed to bring the sportsmen and women of the United States and Russia together in harmony, began yesterday but experienced a last-minute hitch over the refusal of the United States Defence Department to permit the American boxers to take part.

The 10 boxers and a coach, all US military personnel, were stranded back home while the American organizers of this joint Soviet-US promotion were trying to get the decision reversed.

Under conditions of strict security, the first big Soviet-US sports confrontation since the 1976 Montreal Olympics got under way, hailed by the Soviet organizers as symbolizing the improved relations between the superpowers signalled by last year's Geneva summit. The Americans who have been involved in setting up the Games for a nearly a year praised the close cooperation from the Soviet side.

Teams of around 500 athletes from the two countries are among competitors from nearly 70 nations competing in the Games, which are the idea of Ted Turner, the American broadcasting tycoon, who planned them as a response to the boycotts of the 1980 and 1984 Olympics held respectively in Moscow and Los Angeles.

Among the competitors due to take part in the 20 sports are Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses and Willie Banks from the United States; Uwe Harn and Heike Drechsler from East Germany; Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria; and, from the Soviet Union, Sergei Bubka, Natalya Lisovskaya and Yuri Sedykh.

Marat Gramov, the chairman of the organizing committee, claimed that the Games, which have brought 1,000 American spectators to Moscow, were "a reflection of the Geneva spirit" and a convincing demonstration that the US and the Soviet Union could work together "for the good of mankind and the good of peace".

The streets of the capital have been spruced up for the event and many of the

usual propaganda slogans have been taken down and replaced with giant signs carrying the slogan "Sport: the ambassador of peace".

By coincidence, the Games have opened at a time when the recent chill in relations between Moscow and Washington has been slightly thawed by suggestions from the Kremlin this week that the 1986 summit will take place as intended, despite its continuing reluctance to agree a date.

Some US sports officials, notably the former national Olympic Committee president, Robert Kane, have accused Turner, the flamboyant head of the pioneering US cable television company, Turner Broadcasting System, of undermining the status of the committee as the coordinator of US athletes' participation in international events.

The Soviet organizers have angrily rejected charges of commercialization aimed at the Games, which will be broadcast live in the US for 130 hours and packaged for showing in other western countries.

"Some people stubbornly insist on the allegedly commercial character of the games," Mr Gramov said. "There is no truth whatsoever in these claims. We do not pursue any commercial aims, and our expenses are far in excess of any income that might be gained."

He also denied that the Games conflicted with the organization of the Olympics despite recent expressions of dissatisfaction by members of the International Olympic Committee meeting in Seoul, the venue for the next Olympics in 1988.

"The philosophy of the Goodwill Games, as we understand it, makes them akin to the ideas of the Olympic movement," Mr Gramov stated.

Although the Games opened officially yesterday with swimming events, a spectacular opening ceremony involving many thousands of people will be staged tonight in Moscow's Lenin Stadium.

According to Mr Turner, a multi-millionaire who has won praise in the official Soviet media, the next Goodwill Games will be staged in Seattle in 1990.

Mandlikova holds the key

By Rex Bellamy

For the first time since 1977 the Wimbledon women's singles final today will be contested by players who were both born in Europe, in this case Martina Navratilova and Hana Mandlikova.

In 1975 Miss Navratilova and Renata Tomanova won the world team championship (Federation Cup) for Czechoslovakia. Since 1981 Miss Navratilova has been a United States citizen but presumably there will be a conflict of loyalties when, later this month, she returns to her native land in an effort to take the Federation Cup away from Czechoslovakia, winners for the past three years. Miss Mandlikova has replaced Miss Navratilova as the star of the Czechoslovak show.

Another historic aside is that Betty Stove, who lost to Virginia Wade in the last final between players born in Eu-

rope, has had much to do — as travelling companion, coach and confidante — with Miss Mandlikova's increasing maturity as a player and a person. That player-person relationship is essential. Professional tennis is increasingly a game for the young but it is rare for a major title to go to anyone other than the comprehensively adult.

Miss Mandlikova has grown up. She is also more than five years younger than Miss Navratilova, which must be measured against the fact that Miss Navratilova has won 18 of their previous 24 matches. Miss Mandlikova was the last player to beat Miss Navratilova at Wimbledon, in 1981, though Miss Navratilova won their three other matches on grass: one at Eastbourne, the others in Australia.

Miss Navratilova holds the

Wimbledon and Australian titles but, last September, Miss Mandlikova beat Chris Lloyd and Miss Navratilova in turn to win the US championships.

What all this amounts to is that there can be no confident forecast. Miss Navratilova has won all her six Wimbledon singles finals. This year's opposition has hardly been formidable, which means that she should have plenty of physical and emotional energy in reserve. She may be rocked back on her heels for a few games and Miss Mandlikova is largely a "confidence" player who, granted a good start, can be irresistibly inspired.

Miss Navratilova, however, is the sounder of the two and has the strength of arm and wrist that is always important on grass, which often demands improvisation.

Much depends on whether Miss Mandlikova's services and approach shots are as boldly accurate as they were against Mrs Lloyd. If they are, it must be doubted whether Miss Navratilova can counter-punch as well as Mrs Lloyd usually does.

Both players are exceptionally good movers. Miss Mandlikova's cross-court forehand could hurt Miss Navratilova's backhand. Equally, Miss Navratilova's chipped backhand approach shot down the line could be fruitful. It should be a fascinating match — decided, one suspects, by Miss Mandlikova's less predictable form and by the way each player serves.

Happer, who has the thankless task of trying to tell multi-millionaire superstars what to do, was delighted to hear such sentiments coming from a man who was apt to cause a little mayhem on court in his own playing days.

"The general behaviour pattern is vastly improved," Happer agreed. "The fines levied by our supervisors at the French Open this year were way down on last year. The attitude of the Europeans has certainly been a factor but so, too, has the improvement in the standard of officiating."

Ken Ferrar, the chief grand prix supervisor, said that there would be no significant drop in the number of fines at Wimbledon this year but, as he pointed out, "crimes" such as yelling at umpires and obscene gestures were virtually nonexistent now. "Most of the offences are minor ones," Ferrar agreed. "We have much less trouble with bad behaviour than we used to."

Happer is always keeping an eye for new technological aids to assist his officials and is looking at a system based on sonar sounding, as used in submarines, which could cover all lines on a tennis court and offer officials instant replays.

Certainly the days when umpires at tennis and cricket and referees at football will be assisted by another official monitoring precision technology by the side of the playing area cannot be far away. In the meantime, this generation of tennis players seem better suited temperamentally to handle the injustices of human error than their immediate predecessors.

The year peace broke out at Wimbledon

By Richard Evans

It is too simplistic to suggest that the absence of John McEnroe and the first round defeat of Jimmy Connors has been entirely responsible for the aura of peace and tranquillity that has settled over Wimbledon this year.

Obviously the headlines would have been shriller had they been around but both are yesterday's story as far as behaviour on the international circuit is concerned.

Before going off to watch Boris Becker give a highly concentrated demonstration of power play against the amusing and less concentrated Henri Leconte yesterday, I saw the Wimbledon champion's manager, was in a long discussion over the game's changing mores with Marshall Happer, the executive director of the Men's International Professional Tennis Council, and his Paris-based assistant, Paul Sreblak.

"There is no problem with the young players," Sreblak said. "The Swedes and even Boris is better now because he knows that when he gets angry he plays badly. He had 10 minutes when he lost his temper against Paul McNamee and it hurt him."

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Woosnam 'brainstorm' has James laughing

From Mitchell Platts, Versailles

Ian Woosnam took two strokes to get his ball within three feet of the cup at the 172 yards third hole in the Peugeot French Open second round, on the La Boule course here, yesterday. He eventually signed for a 16 at the hole.

Woosnam hit the ball eight times and incurred a further eight penalty shots for hitting a moving ball.

Frustration is the root of most evils in golf. The slightest suggestion of a kink in the swing can play havoc with the mind. The putter which becomes the traitorous implement will inflict misery on its owner.

Woosnam is not the first golfer, neither will he be the last, to allow frustration to rise to the surface of his emotions. He had started at the 10th hole and, with nine holes remaining, calculated that as he was five over par for the championship, he required six birdies to escape the halfway gallitune.

So when Woosnam, a member of the European team which won the Ryder Cup last September, missed from three feet at the third — his twelfth — the cut sliced too deep into his morale. "I should not have been playing anyway. I have a bad back," he said. "The frustration of it all became too much for me."

At least he did complete the round. When Brian Barnes played "hockey" around a hole during the French Open in 1968, recording a score assessed to be 15, he considered enough was enough and took his leave.

Woosnam, who ironically finished with four birdies in his remaining six holes, played